



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



**The Muni of Venice.** Noe Valley resident Robert Eakin takes the opportunity to catch up on the news from back home while crossing the Grand Canal in a traghetti. Traghetti are gondolas configured to ferry passengers, usually Venetians, on regular routes, some of which date back to 1300.

Photo by Alvis Hendley



**Good Morning, Noe Valley!** A 25th Street back yard sees the birth and growth of a hummingbird. By the time you read this, our tiny dynamo will be three weeks old and will have already shed its pinfeathers and taken a test flight.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

## It's a Colorful World

We see skies of blue, dog dirt, too—double-wide strollers and coffee to brew and we say to ourselves, “Can this Noe be true?”

Dear Readers, the Noe Valley Voice is changing. And, since good things take time, you'll find our color section only a bit larger this issue. Look for our news and features' coverage starting on page 13, and note your favorite regular features below. We've got your letters and those Rumors as usual. We hope you'll like what you see!

### Contents

Books to Read .....	41
Calendar .....	30-31
Class Ads .....	44-45
Cost of Living in Noe .....	21
Crossword .....	8
Groups .....	46
Letters .....	7 & 9
Neighborhood Services .....	42-43
Police Beat .....	23-24
Rumors Behind the News .....	47-48
School Report .....	39
Short Takes .....	29
Store Trek .....	33

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE  
[www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com)  
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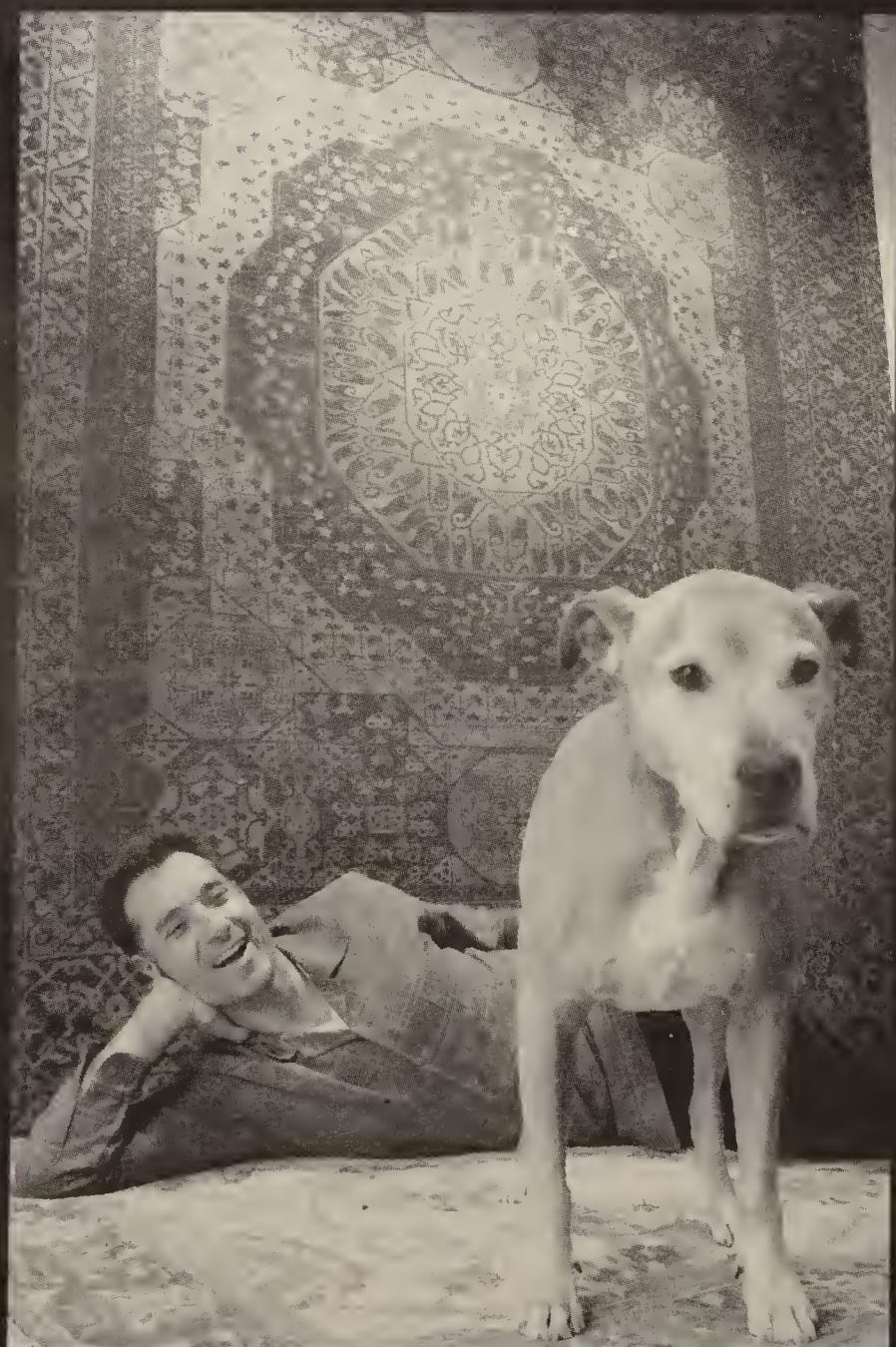
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2 – Tom Taylor	18 – Michael Goldstein
5 – Debra Walker	20 – David Campos
8 – Aaron Peskin	23 – David Chiu
11 – Eric Quezada	24 – Rafael Mandelman
15 – Joe Julian	26 – Carole Migden
17 – Alix Rosenthal	28 – Robert Haaland

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# Noe Valley Democratic Club

N / DC

June 8th Election Endorsements

## STATE CANDIDATES



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**John Chiang\***  
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**Bill Lockyer\***  
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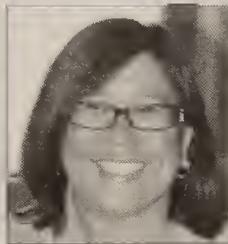
**Kamala Harris**  
Attorney General



**Dave Jones**  
Insurance  
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**Tom Torlakson**  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction



**Betty Yee\***  
Board of Equalization



**Leland Yee\***  
Senate District 8



**Tom Ammiano\***  
Assembly District 13

■ Lt. Governor: NO POSITION

\*Incumbents

## STATE PROPOSITIONS

**13 – YES** — Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings

**14 – NO** — Elections: Increases Right to Participate in Primary Elections

**15 – YES** — California Fair Elections Act

**16 – NO** — Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers. Initiative

**17 – NO** — Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage

## LOCAL DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE – DISTRICT 13



**Melissa Apuya**



**Keith Baraka**



**David Campos\***



**David Chiu\***



**Joe Julian\***



**Leslie Katz\***



**Rafael Mandelman\***



**Aaron Peskin\***



**Catherine Stefani**



**Debra Walker\***



**Scott Wiener\***

■ Superior Court Judge, Seat 6 and Superior Court Judge, Seat 15: NO POSITION

\*Incumbents

## LOCAL PROPOSITIONS

**A – YES** — School Facilities Special Tax

**B – YES** — Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond

**C – YES** — Film Commission

**D – YES** — Retirement Benefit Costs

**E – NO POSITION** — Budget Line Item for Police Security for City Officials and Dignitaries

**F – YES** — Renters' Financial Hardship Applications

**G – YES** — Transbay Transit Center

**FYI:** Endorsement of a candidate or position is based on support by 60% or more of those voting. Failure to meet that 60% threshold results in "no position." Note that while 12 DCCC candidates COULD have been endorsed, only 11 met the 60% requirement.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club generally meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. at Elizabeth. Call 415 641-5838 for meeting times and location.

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**Noe Plaza a Bold Experiment**

Editor:

*[Re: "Minipark Spurs Mini-Revolt," Noe Valley Voice April 2010]*

I have lived in Noe Valley for eight years. When I tell people that I live here, they remark on our stroller moms, doggie dads, kids, restaurants, and the vibrancy of 24th Street. The previous neighborhood I lived in was primarily known for

**LETTERS 44¢**

easy access to Highway 280 and for being "close to somewhere else." It was known for what it was near and how easy it was to leave. Noe Valley is known for what is *here*, and more importantly for who we *are*—no small feat for a neighborhood not built on common ethnic heritage. Wearing my Noe Valley snobbery on my sleeve, I think that makes us a little bit special.

We will soon have a chance to try a bold experiment that turns conventional thinking on its head—to close a road to cars and open it to people. Where we now bump into our neighbors on the streets, we may soon be able to gather together in an open space in the heart of our business district. We have a wonderful resource in 24th Street, but it is like an athlete with lungs, limbs, muscles, and brains—but no heart. Good, perhaps great, but with the potential to be so much more.

A trial of a road closure at 24th and Noe will cause change, and change is not always easy. We may find out that the concept is flawed or unworkable. Should that happen, we will call it a day on that experiment and move on. To me, the fact that we are willing to *try* something so unique and counter to stale conventional wisdom—just to see if it might work—is evidence that I am right, we *are* special here in our little valley. I ask that my neighbors prove me right and support the trial of a full plaza at 24th and Noe.

John Murphy  
Noe Valley

**The Pinnacle of Poor Planning**

Editor:

I want to register my strong opposition to the [proposed closure] of Noe Street to create an "urban park."

Why weren't the most directly affected residents, i.e., the people living on Jersey, Elizabeth, Castro, Sanchez, and 24th streets, properly notified? Why does the CBD [Noe Valley Community Benefit District, administered by the Noe Valley Association], along with the various San Francisco agencies, get the power to initiate sweeping projects without consultation? When someone wants to renovate

their *own home*, they have to send written notification to all neighbors and provide a 30-day notice period. The plaza would block a major street, and not a single notice was sent to anyone.

To close a street prior to doing traffic studies is simply irresponsible. Let's do it and see what happens? What kind of a traffic plan is that? Where exactly do you think those cars and trucks are going to go? Down the neighboring streets, which are already inundated with blocked driveways and double-parked cars.

The same group of people promoting this idea are the ones who took away the sidewalk space on Noe Street to create massive planter areas. I'm all for greening the city, but have any of you ever spent a whole Saturday looking at what happens on the Starbucks corner? The sidewalk is jam-packed, since most of it was taken over by the planters. I routinely have to walk my dog around the block just so we don't get trampled. Yet another instance of poor planning from people who don't have to deal with the daily consequences.

Creating this park is just as poorly thought out but on a massively larger scale. It's no longer just navigating an unnecessarily tiny sidewalk. It's thousands of vehicles a week being rerouted onto adjacent streets.

The constant comparison to Castro and 17th Street is inaccurate. Prior to the park, that entire area was painted with yellow lines, and the only cars going through there were turning from northbound Castro. You can't compare that with stopping traffic on a north/south street that goes through the entire neighborhood! Justifying the Castro "success" with a survey that shows support from 8 of 11 businesses is very flimsy evidence of success.

What's wrong with the parklets on 24th Street where the Farmers' Market is or where the parking lot is? Both are about a block from Noe Street and wonderful places for people to congregate. How about the Upper Noe Rec Center with its costly renovation? Can't people be encouraged to have community space there?

Noe Courts? Douglass Playground? There is no shortage of spaces for people in Noe Valley to congregate. Creating a plaza by blocking a major street is not necessary. And the CBD's contention that the community wants more gathering places from meetings four years ago is hardly a justification. If you told those people that to create the gathering places a major street would be blocked off, I'm sure serious concerns would have been raised four years ago.

This grand scheme is going to provide a useful gathering area on Saturday and Sunday mornings for people shopping on 24th Street. And in exchange for those 10 hours a week, you are going to cause headaches for all the immediate neighbors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The waste of taxpayer money on whimsical ideas while the city has a massive budget deficit has to stop. Continually putting the "community" desires against those residents directly affected by it (such as the restaurant issue) has to stop. Having selected representatives of the CBD decide how to reshape our neighborhood has to stop. Experimenting in the name of progress without doing the proper studies has to stop. The building of this park has to stop.

Trishan Arul  
Jersey Street

**Try It Part-Time**

Editor:

My wife Elizabeth Cronbach and I support the idea of a plaza on Noe Street at 24th. We live on Elizabeth west of Castro and get to and from the 24th Street shopping area variously by car, by foot, and by Muni. We have a 2-year-old granddaughter who we bring down to the shopping area when we get a chance and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

**LETTERS to the EDITOR**

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Or email [editor@noevalueyvoice.com](mailto:editor@noevalueyvoice.com). Please include your name and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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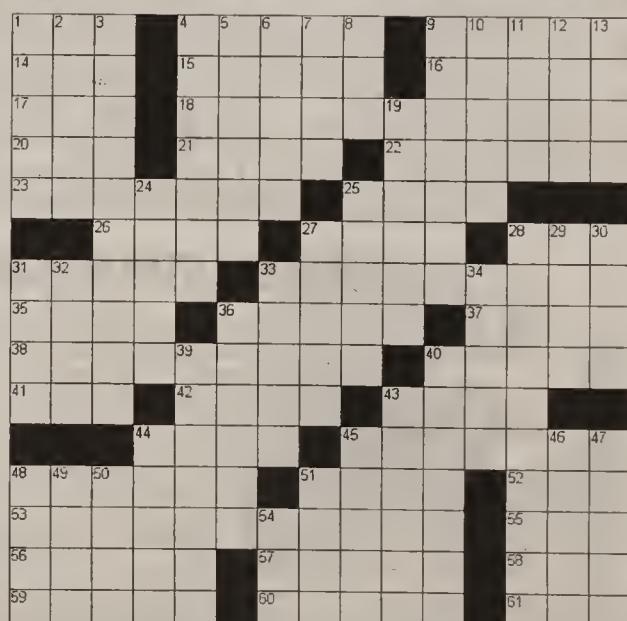
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### THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

*So Four Guys Walked Into Bliss Bar and...*

ACROSS

1. Owns
4. \_\_\_ Cellars (24th Street store)
9. Hilton heiress
14. Dedicated poem
15. Pet problem?
16. Exxon rival
17. Conquer
18. The guy from Tugger's ordered a...
20. 4:00 drink
21. Gives a line to
22. Mr. Hemingway
23. Pariah
25. Advertising award
26. Alternative to *Vogue* or *Glouram*
27. Cartoonist Addams, for short
28. Status \_\_\_
31. \_\_\_ and the *Pussycats* (1970s cartoon)
33. The guy from Rocket Dog Rescue ordered a...
35. Fast-growing city near Provo
36. Deteriorates
37. Robin's Marian, for one
38. The realtor from Zephyr ordered a...
40. Patronizes Hertz, e.g.
41. Sexy
42. "No problem!"
43. Word said with a hand-slap
44. Apt anagram for evil
45. [www.noecityvoice.com](http://www.noecityvoice.com), for one site
48. Tormentor
51. Cooties
52. \$0.09 of a \$1.09 purchase, in S.F.
53. The kung fu teacher from *Navarrete's* ordered a...
55. '50s White House nickname



56. Toaster's phrase
57. Occupation of Pete Brannigan or Sue Bowie
58. Always, in poems
59. Sleeping noise
60. Noe Valley Bakery purchases
61. Use a chair
62. Becomes frozen, with "up"
63. Boxer's got one; Fiorina wants one
64. Like much Union Square shopping
65. Disqualify (oneself) as judge in a particular case
66. Chartres chapeau
67. They're numbered in the Sunset: Abbr.
68. Just minted
69. Painter of the Pied Piper above the Palace Hotel's nickname
70. "Maxfield's" Bar
71. Acid in proteins
72. Roam
73. Becomes frozen, with "up"
74. Type
75. Holdups
76. Ascend
77. Like a close "amie"
78. Nutso
79. In ads, they're "limited, so act now!"
80. Condo or apartment
81. Casino calculations
82. Kid around with
83. Cookie with a creme center
84. Birds flying in V's
85. Harbingers
86. Riches
87. Publish again
88. He heads the Supremes
89. Presentable
90. Eyeshade
91. Blade on a car
92. He played Sulu on

Star Trek  
47. Apply, as pressure  
48. Bilko and Pepper: Abbr.  
49. Elvis Presley's middle name  
50. "The Banana Boat Song" refrain  
51. Annika Sorenstam grp.  
54. Cheerios grain

Solution on Page 41

NOTE: See the Noe Valley Voice Crossword, including all past puzzles, at [www.noecityvoice.com](http://www.noecityvoice.com)

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# LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

think the plaza would make the overall experience more enjoyable for everyone.

We have lived here for 36 years and appreciate the way in which 24th Street has become more of a "scene" in the last decade or so.

One thought: In the cities we visit in France, there are part-time auto-free zones. Maybe if a compromise is necessary, that could be a solution, at least for a while.

Michael and Elizabeth Cronbach  
Elizabeth Street

## Public Safety an Issue

Editor:

The problem with the ill-conceived proposal to block Noe Street is one of public safety.

Police and firefighters know that Noe Street is their quickest direct route for reaching Noe Valley residents who live just north of 24th Street.

In fact, I can't believe that those who live north of 24th Street aren't taking to the streets with pitchforks and torches or boycotting members of the Noe Valley Association over the proposed closure. After all, they're the ones who will lose precious minutes when ambulances and firetrucks can't get to them quickly.

Elizabeth Statmore  
Noe Valley

## It's Only Temporary

Editor:

I just want to chime in on the debate about the temporary plaza that's been proposed for 24th Street and Noe. I have

heard some of the opposition to the plaza trial, which seems to revolve around all kinds of potential problems that would result from its installation. What seems lost in all the noise is that the city's Pavement to Parks program has designed and installed all of these similar public spaces throughout the city as temporary trials. The great thing about a trial is that we don't have to speculate about perceived pros and cons. We can just set up the temporary experiment and find out for ourselves. I can understand a visceral reaction to a proposed permanent change. I cannot understand the fear of a trial run.

Given how scarce public space is on 24th Street, I would really like to see the plaza trial go forward as it was originally imagined.

Jason Young

## Meet in the Middle

Editor:

On April 8, I objected to the proposed blocking of Noe Street at a community meeting. Since then I've been called a variety of names in person and online, and been attributed many vividly unflattering traits.

While I anticipated a great many opinions, I did not expect open hostilities to break out. I did not expect, for example, unfriendly hand gestures from passing bicyclists as I walked to BART. Neither did I expect to be advised that "you old people should die and get out of the way of progress."

In a matter of days, an admirable program became enveloped in a toxic cloud of conflicting expectations and rising anxiety. Instead of balancing community benefits with individual needs, battle lines were drawn. Neighbors became enemies.

People who believe a plaza is worth exchanging for a street became the enemies of good sense, of cars, of reason, of resi-

dents, of merchants, of stability. People who don't want Noe blocked became enemies of progress, of environmentalism, of sustainability, of public transit, pedestrians, parks, trees, families and all that signifies...something. It is in this wide, gray fog of significance that we lost sight of each other.

If striking a blow for a principle requires knocking out your neighbor, then the principle is flawed. Ideals are supposed to serve people, not the other way around. If reason is discarded in favor of reducing others to two-dimensional obstructions, then kindness, an underestimated virtue, has been tossed aside as well.

Still, distrust can be converted into good faith. Hand gestures need to be adjusted, of course, and all our political processes made more transparent. Meeting in the middle might be best begun with a meeting of minds, not a clash of egos and ideology. By taking a step back, asking residents for alternative and creative ideas, we can come to a solution instead of creating rancor. Otherwise, any parklet, plaza, or streetscape will be less a community gathering spot than a war memorial.

Mary C. McFadden

## Noe Valley Archeology on Display

Dear Noe Valleyans:

Thank you so much to those of you who participated in my project, "Noe Valley: A Narrative Archeology," by telling me your stories about your lives lived in the neighborhood. The project is culminating this month with my MFA exhibition at California College of the Arts. The show will be up May 6–15 at 1111 Eighth Street (in Potrero Hill), with an opening reception on Thursday, May 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. My space will be the last room on the left. It would be wonderful to see you there! Please spread the word!

The show will include works I have made based on the narrative material I collected, including handmade books, prints, and drawings, sculptural elements, and film installation. I have also self-published a book that includes an essay on Noe based on the personal experiences of its inhabitants, as well as collected narratives from participants and images both of the neighborhood and of my artworks. You can check out the book at the show, but it is also available at <http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/noe-valley-a-narrative-archeology/10284133> for \$25, the cost of printing (I am not making revenue).

Again, thank you infinitely for your participation. I couldn't have completed this project without you.

Claire Kessler-Bradner

*Editor's Note:* Voice writer Lorriane Sanders described Claire Kessler-Bradner's project in a September 2009 story titled "Local Artist Sets Out to Map Neighborhood's Oral History." You can reread it at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

## Thank You and Farewell

Dear People of Noe Valley:

Thank you for a very interesting three years. I have enjoyed friends on Jersey Street and Chattanooga Street.

I will miss all the shops and people, the views, the libraries, the opera house, and ShadowLight Theater.

Thank you to two landlords—Phyllis Rodighiero and Betty Mathews—and to my sister Helen Dannenberg.

Sincerely,  
Friend of Noe Valley  
Ruth Rosenblatt  
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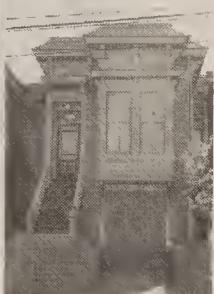
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# The Life and Untimely Death Of Charles McAleer-Bonilla

By Corrie M. Anders

**H**e had a smile that told you everything about his love of life and family. A smile so big it often overflowed into laughter.

"Here comes sunshine," his coworkers at the Water Department used to say.

But that smile disappeared on Thursday, April 8, when Charles J. McAleer-Bonilla, 30, was fatally stabbed on the threshold of the home he shared with his mother and 13-year-old son.

The murder has baffled police and devastated a tight-knit Noe Valley family, and in its wake prompted friends to honor McAleer-Bonilla—a single parent—with fund drives to pay for his son's education.

The San Francisco Police Department, which is still investigating the crime, has been reluctant to divulge details about the case. However, one high-ranking official suggested that McAleer-Bonilla might have known his assailant.

"It's not a random event," Capt. Louis Cassanego of Ingleside Station told the *Voice*. "I can't go beyond that."

The victim's sister, Jessica Lawlor-Bonilla, said the family was in "constant contact" with homicide investigators. "The police are on the ball," she said. "They're doing good."

## Bouquets of Roses

The death was San Francisco's 14th homicide this year. But it was the first slaying in Noe Valley in many years, according to neighbors (*see sidebar*).

Police said the violence erupted following an altercation about 8:50 p.m. outside McAleer-Bonilla's apartment at 305 28th Street near Sanchez Street. He was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where he died an hour later.

McAleer-Bonilla lived on the ground floor of a brown two-unit building. Nearly two weeks after his murder, a makeshift memorial of prayer candles, helium-filled balloons, and bouquets of

## RARE EVENT IN NEIGHBORHOOD

**V**iolence is not unknown in Noe Valley, but seldom is it murder. *Voice* archives record a 1997 homicide in the 1000 block of Church Street. Neighborhood activist Eileen Bermingham noted that another homicide occurred in 2004 at Guerrero and 27th streets.

The April slaying of Charles McAleer-Bonilla "could have been anywhere, quite honestly," said Bermingham, a board member of the group Upper Noe Neighbors. "I don't think it signals there is going to be some kind of rise in crime in Noe Valley."

"It was just a shock," said Mike Gutierrez, 29, a childhood friend who attended grade school with McAleer-Bonilla and now works for Tuggee's Hardware on 24th Street.

"You don't hear about stabbings in Noe Valley. I'm not going to start carrying a gun, but I hope the police step up their game or the neighborhood starts a neighborhood watch program."

For information about San Francisco SAFE, which offers tips on starting a watch program on your block, call 553-1967 or go to [www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org).



A family portrait from happier times shows (right to left) Carmen Bonilla, her son Charles McAleer-Bonilla, grandson Charles McAleer-Bonilla Jr., and daughter Jessica Lawlor-Bonilla.

Photos courtesy the Bonilla family

red roses still lay in the porch entryway.

A police bulletin taped to the building's front door asked for the public's help. The flyer stated, "One or more persons may have been injured in this homicide and may be bleeding."

As McAleer-Bonilla lay mortally wounded from multiple stab wounds, a four-block trail of blood showed that his attacker fled uphill on 28th Street, veered left on Noe Street, crossed Valley Street, and then turned left downhill on 29th Street for one block, where the trail ended. The police bulletin said the volume of blood along the escaper's route indicated a wound severe enough to require medical attention.

## Final Respects

Eleven days after McAleer-Bonilla's death, a crowd of more than 500 people paid their final respects during a requiem mass April 19 at St. Paul's Catholic Church.

A color portrait, chosen for the mass, showed a cheery young man with dark eyes, mustache, and a neat tuft of black fuzz beneath his chin. "Charlie" was what his friends and coworkers called him, his family said. The family had their pet name, too: "Chuckie."

"He was half-Salvadoran and half-Irish," said his sister, 26. Their grandmother immigrated in 1965 to San Francisco from El Salvador, with two young daughters, including their mother, Carmen Bonilla.

When Jessica was 12 or 13, she said, "I decided to hyphenate [add] my mom's name out of respect." Charles subsequently changed his name as well.

"He said life is too short and you need to cherish the relationships you have."

McAleer-Bonilla graduated from St. Paul's K-8 School in 1994, and then attended Riordan High School for one year before getting his diploma from International Studies Academy.

He took a few college courses, and before his death was studying to become a plumber. But he often said he regretted not pursuing an academic degree, his sister said. He urged his son, Charles Jr., to study hard in school.

"He said, 'Son, education is the key to success,'" recalled Lawlor-Bonilla. "While you're doing homework, I'm sitting here studying for this plumber's test. I'm the proof that you have to have education."

## Trying to Be Attentive

The Bonilla family runs four generations deep in Noe Valley. They've lived at several locations in the neighborhood, mostly within three blocks of St. Paul's, their spiritual base at Church and Valley streets.

In recent years, McAleer-Bonilla had started to help out at the church, where his grandmother was a well-known and frequent presence.

spoke about McAleer-Bonilla's happy disposition, which was punctuated by a laugh they described as "loud as a hyena."

Lawlor-Bonilla said her brother sounded like Laffing Sal, the Musée Mécanique icon at Pier 45. "Sometimes it'd be so annoying, but then I'd start laughing just because he was laughing."

McAleer-Bonilla's job, delivering interoffice mail, was another thing that made him smile. On more than a few occasions, his mother said, "he wanted to work on weekends. I'd say, 'Get a life, Charles.'"

## Everybody Loved Him

The murder stunned McAleer-Bonilla's coworkers at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Water Department's umbrella agency. He had worked for the PUC since 2004, making daily rounds to Water Department offices from San Francisco to Millbrae to Sunol.

"I know it sounds hackneyed when people pass on to say they're a good person and when you have nothing but good things to say. But gosh, with Charlie it was really true," said David Briggs, a PUC manager in Millbrae.

"Every time I saw him he had a smile on his face. He thoroughly enjoyed coming to work. He wrote countless Christmas cards to the managers and the people he worked with every day," Briggs remembered.

Distribution manager Myrtell Bass-Kuma said she got to know McAleer-Bonilla during his twice-a-day mail runs.

"Everybody loved him," she said. "He was polite and respectful. He was at the wrong place at the wrong time. It just broke my heart."

In the weeks following his death, Bass-Kuma, Briggs, and other Water Department employees collected approximately \$4,000 to help McAleer-Bonilla's family.

## A Noe Valley Fundraiser

Two Noe Valley parents, Claudine Ryan and Joanne Kapsack, have set up a trust fund to help pay for Charles Jr.'s high school and college education. They knew McAleer-Bonilla through his sister, a babysitter for the Ryan family.

"It is times like these that we as a community need to come together and support each other," Kapsack said.

The trust fund drive started at Alvarado Elementary School, where many students and parents knew Lawlor-Bonilla because of her connection to Ryan's and Kapsack's children.

If you wish to help, donations can be made payable to Jessica Lawlor-Bonilla and sent to her, care of Claudine Ryan, 21 Jersey Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Write "Charles McAleer Trust" in the subject line.

*Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call homicide inspectors John Cagney, 734-3181; Brian Delahunt, 553-1336; or David Martinovich, 734-5405; or the SFPD's anonymous tip line, 575-4444.*

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# Dreams of a Town Square in 24th Street Parking Lot

Ministry Contemplates Selling Lot to City

By Heather World

The Noe Valley Ministry is exploring the idea of selling its parking lot to the city, and the upshot could be money for the Ministry's ambitious \$4 million renovation and a 10,000-square-foot "town square" in the heart of the Noe Valley business district.

"I am very excited that we may find a win-win situation," says Rev. Keenan Kelsey, pastor of the Presbyterian church at 1021 Sanchez Street. "But it has a bazillion complications that are ours to solve."

The lot, located on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets, was purchased in 2001 for \$3.2 million by an anonymous donor group that hoped commercial parking would help the church and serve the community. The donors gave half ownership to the Ministry, but retained the right to decide when to sell the lot.

That time has come, says Ministry fundraiser Chris Keene.

"Something is going to happen with that lot," says Keene. "It won't be blacktop."

However, creating a town square—a gathering spot that would serve as a home for the Noe Valley Farmers' Market and other community events—depends on a number of tricky factors, including money, bureaucracy, and the need

for community consensus.

"For us, the selling of the parking lot is a matter of dollars and cents," says Kelsey. The Ministry needs to raise another \$2.5 million to create a place of worship for Christians, Jews, and Muslims, she says, and the lot is its only asset. (See "Church to Close for Yearlong Renovation," March 2010 Voice.)

Kelsey is asking the donor group to give the Ministry the entire lot, to make sure that any sale to the city would net enough to cover the church renovation. She says both the church and the donors want the lot to continue to be used for a civic-minded purpose.

"If we can present a plan to show how it [the square] serves the community, I am hopeful we can get them to give us the rest of the parking lot," she says.

## Dufty's Counsel Sought

The town square idea materialized this spring, when Ministry fundraisers learned the city might be able to buy the lot. They contacted Supervisor Bevan Dufty to help navigate the city bureaucracy.

Dufty says the money could come from a voter-established fund in the Recreation and Park Department budget, which is used to buy land for parks and other kinds of open space. The open space fund has about \$5.9 million at present, according to the department's financial officer. By law, the city would pay exactly the assessed value of the lot.

The proposed town square has tremendous promise, says Dufty.

"I can envision a public plaza that would really provide a gathering space, and I think that's what we're looking for: places in which our fast-paced world can be put on hold."

In April, the supervisor arranged a meeting that included Keene and Rec and Park's director of planning, Dawn Kam-

alanathan, to see if the square might qualify for open space funds. He came away hopeful.

"This was but one hurdle, but it was a key one," he says.

## Community Must Be One

Kamalanathan points out that any new open space must meet established criteria to win approval.

"The creation and development of a park is a complicated endeavor," she says.

On the top of the city's list is community unity. Applicants must demonstrate that a town square would have broad support.

The Ministry's Keene suggests that Noe Valley form a civic group that would raise money for the remodeling and upkeep of the square. The Ministry could contribute too, he says, if funds are left over from the renovation, scheduled to start this November.

Private funds could build the square more quickly than public funds, and neighborhood investment would make the plan more palatable to the Board of Supervisors, which must vote to approve the acquisition, he says.

"That's how we think it can move through the city quickly during constrained budget times," Keene says.

## Parking a Casualty

The loss of public parking will cause concern for drivers and merchants, notes Dufty. With spots for 29 cars, the lot is the largest in the neighborhood.

But its value as a parking venue is debatable. The lot loses about \$5,000 a year, according to Kelsey.

"The fact that this is a loser," Dufty says, "makes me more comfortable, because it clearly is not used enough to show it's viable, even to the Ministry. It says to me people are walking, using

transit—that there is enough parking to meet demand."

## A Way to Keep Farmers' Market

Peter Gabel, a member of the Noe Valley Farmers' Market board of directors, says a public town square may be the only way to maintain the Saturday market on 24th Street, and he hopes that will unite the community behind the idea.

"It's a very good situation because the owner of the lot wants the same outcome that the community wants," he says. "I think it could build on the Farmers' Market and generate other community activities in the neighborhood, like evening movies and performances."

A second meeting of the principal players has been scheduled for May, says Dufty. He adds that a possible town square does not replace the controversial Noe Street plaza plan (see story, page 19).

"From a process standpoint, it's additive," Dufty says.

Even if the funding falls into place, the town square might take years to come to fruition. There will be many meetings to attend and compromises to make, its advocates all agree.

Kelsey says she doesn't want to raise false hopes. If the donor group doesn't like the town square idea, if the money from the city isn't adequate, if the neighborhood can't come together around a common goal, the deal will fall apart.

"Then we go back to the drawing board, and I don't know what that means because we're not there yet," she says.



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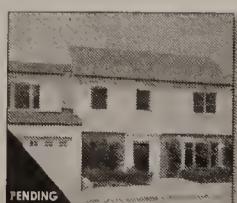
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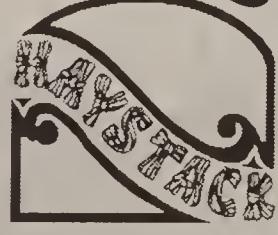
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# Letter Carrier To Hang Up His Satchel for Good

By Olivia Boler

Everybody knows it pays to have a backup plan. But 24th Street letter carrier Daniel Price knows it more than most—his backup plan turned into his life's work. On June 17, Price will retire after 37 years on the job with the United States Postal Service (USPS).

"I'm not really remarkable," says Price with modesty. "I don't have an unusual life story." What he does have is a career that wasn't his first choice but which became a cherished connection to the neighborhood where he was born.

For 31 years, Price has delivered mail up and down 24th Street. Each morning, he leaves his current home in Pacifica and arrives at the post office's 16th and Bryant sorting station by 7:30 a.m. He sorts his mail, which takes about two hours, and then drives his mail truck out to his 94114 service area.

He parks at the corner of 24th and Castro streets and delivers the mail—letters, flat packages, third-class bulk business items ("you probably know it as 'junk mail,'" he says)—to businesses and homes all along 24th Street and down a few of the surrounding blocks. His delivery area has changed a bit over the years as mail volume has grown—and shrunk.



When he first joined the Postal Service in 1973, Daniel Price had no idea he'd be wearing the uniform for close to 40 years.

"At first, my route was 14 blocks long and the boundaries were 23rd and Noe streets and 26th and Diamond streets," says Price, 60. "Over the years, I've whittled it down to seven blocks, as mail volume increased. That's usually how it works. There's an increase in volume and a decrease in territory."

In the past couple of years, however, mail volume has dropped significantly. As consumers rely more on email and other new technologies for their communications, the less they use "snail mail," as paper mail is often called. The Postal Service posted a \$3.8 billion loss in revenue last year, and in March announced plans to cut delivery service to five days a week. Last month, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that Postmaster General John Potter is urging early retirement for half of the USPS's 600,000 employees over the next decade.

His employer's woes have certainly made an impact on Price's decision to permanently hang up his delivery satchel. Usually, he delivers mail five days a week, and on his day off, a "swing carrier" takes over his route. But those jobs will likely be cut if delivery goes to only five days. Price has also seen a decrease in the volume of mail he carries. "To make up for that, we've been doing what is called 'pivoting,' where we do part of someone else's surrounding route, maybe just a block or two," Price says.

Price has strong Noe Valley roots, even



Paule-Dominique Anneheim is one of hundreds of 24th Street residents who will miss letter carrier Daniel Price when he retires from the post office in June.

Photo by Pomegranate Gerord

though his family moved out of the city when he was a toddler. "Both of my parents are proud Mission High School graduates, and I was born in their home on 23rd and Guerrero." He grew up in South San Francisco and San Bruno, the oldest of five siblings who are today scattered around the Bay Area.

He was 23 years old when he first took a job with the USPS. After high school, he fulfilled a two-year enlistment with the U.S. Navy in which he spent most of his time on a ship ferrying troops and equipment between Okinawa and Vietnam.

After being discharged in 1971, Price took classes at City College of San Francisco. "I met the love of my life there, Suzanne." She was a Noe Valley girl, who grew up on Valley Street in St. Paul's Parish. The two married and moved into the apartment where Price was born.

When he finished up his program in chemical engineering in 1973, Price couldn't find work in his field. Fortunately, he had taken the civil service exam for the postal service the year before, "as a backup plan. I took the job to tide me over as a short-term thing. But a chemical engineering job never came through, and I've been with the postal service ever since. I never looked back."

His first routes were in North Beach and the Haight-Ashbury, and he landed the Noe Valley territory in 1979. He and

his wife moved to Daly City a couple of years before that, then to Pacifica in 1983, where they've been ever since. His assignment to the Noe Valley route had nothing to do with his neighborhood ties, but was just coincidence, he says.

Over the past 31 years, Price has seen many changes in Noe Valley. He recalls the "little mom and pop businesses" that were a good share of his customers when he first started. "I remember the original Star Magic, and Harry Aleo the realtor. There was the original Bud's Ice Cream at the corner of 24th and Castro. And there was Star Greeting Cards owned by Elsie Barrett, where the Wells Fargo is now. Also, Glen Five and Ten was where the post office is now."

One customer that's remained is Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys children's clothing boutique on 24th Street. Yenne says she'll be sorry to see Price go. "Dan has been our mailman as long as I can remember. My father was a mailman, and [Price and I] always enjoy great conversations about the mail—how heavy it is, the extra mail during elections, catalogs, changes in schedules, etc." She also appreciates Price's friendly nature and willingness to respond to questions. What stands out most for Yenne is, "Dan always, always has a smile for us."

A group of former customers Price holds dear to his heart are the nuns that

used to live in St. Philip's Church, which closed five years ago. "That was hard to take, when the convent closed. I miss those ladies. I knew them very well over the years."

On the other hand, he won't miss the "small old-fashioned mailboxes that are nearly impossible to fit Netflix envelopes into," he says.

As for that folkloric nemesis of letter carriers—the dog—Price says he has only been nipped a few times, and it's always a sneak attack.

"When I first started working years ago, some people let their dogs roam free, especially on the side streets off 24th Street, and I had to keep a sharp eye out for the renegades. People are better about that today, but it's usually dogs walking off leash, and even some on."

He carries pepper spray just in case, although he has never had occasion to use it. He also notes that one dog that used to bark at him when he was on the job was "as friendly as can be when I was shopping up at the Diamond Heights Safeway one time in my civilian clothes. I always say, all dogs are my friends, some more, some less."

At home, he and his wife are cat people—they share their abode with Callie the calico cat.

Come June, Price will be home a lot more. He currently dabbles in building computers for family and friends. "It's an interesting hobby to me. I put together the components—the case, the CPU, the hard drive." Whether or not he'll do more with that once he retires, he's not sure. He promises to visit his old stomping grounds, though. "Suzanne has strong friends and family connections in St. Paul's Parish. And obviously, I'm going to miss my patrons." And perhaps even those renegades.

Mail carrier Dan Price will be honored, May 20 at 6 p.m. by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association as they celebrate Small Business Week. The party will be hosted by Wells Fargo Bank, 4045 24th Street, and will also recognize Jane Warner of the Special Police Patrol, Noe Valley Auto, Selecta Auto Body, Phoenix Books, Terra Mia, and Susie Mills of Castro Nails. Though it's primarily a merchant event, Yenne says, "If anyone else wants to come because they know Dan, they are welcome to do so."

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# Controversy Over Plaza Plan Revs Up Traffic Studies

By Heather World

Opposition to a proposed pedestrian plaza on Noe Street voiced at an April community meeting has pushed city planners to expand their traffic studies and present the results at a second public meeting.

"We listened to the input at the community meeting, and people really wanted a broad analysis, so we're looking at not just that intersection but surrounding streets as well," says planner Andres Power, who manages Pavement to Parks (P2P), the one-year-old city program that turns swaths of street into open space.

Power says the Municipal Transportation Agency will stretch black tubes across Noe, Jersey, Elizabeth, Castro, and Sanchez streets to clock the number of vehicles crossing on weekdays and Saturdays. Engineers then will make "guarded predictions" about where those cars might go next, he says.

Power says he hopes to host the second meeting the third week in May, contingent upon the MTA's completing its analysis. The city will notify residents of the meeting by email and by posting flyers around the neighborhood.

But those actions may not satisfy some opponents of the project, which calls for a temporary barricade across Noe Street, closing the street to all traffic but emergency vehicles.

"We don't want to close the street, that's the bottom line," says Joel Panzer, a Jersey Street resident and owner of RMC Real Management Company on Castro. "We need to take this off the table. We need to start having meetings, and talk, and work together like we always do."

The plaza would extend south from 24th Street about 60 feet and offer portable seating and greenery designed by architect Seth Boor and garden expert Flora Grubb. Besides the roadway, four parking spaces and six motorcycle spots



At an April 8 community meeting at St. Philip's Church, local residents and merchants got a chance to see preliminary sketches of two proposed designs for a pedestrian park on Noe Street. Plan A (above), the car-free "plaza," would close a 60-foot section of Noe Street extending south from 24th Street. Plan B (below), the smaller "parklet," would allow drivers road access. The city is currently doing traffic studies at the intersection and on several side streets, in preparation for a second meeting.

Sketches by Seth Boor of Boor Bridges Architecture



on Noe would be taken out of service. (An alternative plan, called a "parklet," would keep Noe Street open.)

## 'Keep Noe Open'

Panzer and longtime Noe Street resident Dan Duncan have gathered about 350 signatures on a petition opposing the plaza. They've also produced green "Keep Noe Open" placards to supplement the orange "Don't Block Noe" signs peppered windows in the neighborhood. To generate support for their cause, they will continue to man a table at the Saturday farmers market on 24th Street, Panzer says.

"People should have a say, but some people should have more of a say than others, if it's in your back yard," he says.

The April 8 meeting, moderated by Su-

pervisor Bevan Dufty, drew a crowd of some 300 residents to St. Philip's Church, many of whom held pre-made signs or wore stickers for or against the trial. Once inside, the attendees examined a poster-sized rendition of the plaza (and the parklet too), a project advocated by the Noe Valley Association, the community benefit district on 24th Street. The NVA proposed the plaza idea to the city in January, which responded with a \$38,000 grant.

After introductory remarks by Dufty, and Power's slideshow describing P2P and the project, people lined up on either side of the room to take two minutes at the microphone and express their opinion. Opposition to the plaza revolved around fears of increased noise, parking scarcity, and traffic congestion on the blocks surrounding the minipark. Some skeptics argued there might be better uses for city money or more appropriate spots in the neighborhood for a public gathering place.

## Space Suits Neighborhood

The proponents of the plaza trial were led by 23rd Street resident John Murphy. Murphy, a father and local activist, hopes the neighborhood will give the project a chance.

"I support this plaza because it is the

sort of big public space that suits the demographics of Noe Valley, that will bring customers for our businesses and will improve the quality of the intersection of 24th and Noe," he says.

Murphy says he and a loose-knit group of supporters are creating their own window signs and may set up a table at the farmers market as well. They've also been using email and Twitter to get the word out. "I think that viral approach is more effective in this day and age," he says.

Murphy's pro-plaza blog, [yesnoeavalley.blogspot.com](http://yesnoeavalley.blogspot.com), rallied supporters to the first meeting at St. Philip's. "A lot of the supporters are parents with young children," he says.

## Wary of 'Temporary'

People on both sides of the debate expressed concern over the way news of the proposed plaza trickled out. Most heard about it for the first time from the *San Francisco Chronicle* Feb. 25, when Mayor Gavin Newsom included the Noe Valley plaza in a boast about new P2P projects.

"There's a lot of mistrust that's been bred," says 24th Street resident Mary McFadden, who spoke for the opposition at the meeting. She describes the project as "small but hugely disruptive."

Like many opponents, she doesn't trust the city to pull the plaza if it proves unpopular when its trial status is reviewed.

"Those of us who have lived in San Francisco for a while are suspicious of the word 'temporary,' especially if you're a public school parent, where there are plenty of 'temporary' bungalows," she said.

## Measuring the Trial

Dufty says he thinks many who opposed the street closure want to be reassured that scientific, objective methods are being used to measure the impact.

"We're carefully pursuing MTA and DPT [the Department of Parking and Traffic] for traffic counts," he says. "I do think some of those who spoke against trial closure want to know if there is a real science in how we evaluate during this trial period."

Power has also met with the San Francisco Fire Department to ensure the project does not impede emergency access.

He says that if the project goes forward, residents will have a say in the length of the initial trial. (Past P2P projects have been evaluated after two months and six months.) At the end of the trial period, the MTA and SF Better Streets, a nonprofit that has worked with P2P to measure the numbers and types of park users, would take a second round of measurements.

For information or if you would like to receive notice of the next meeting, send an email to [andres.power@sfgov.org](mailto:andres.power@sfgov.org).

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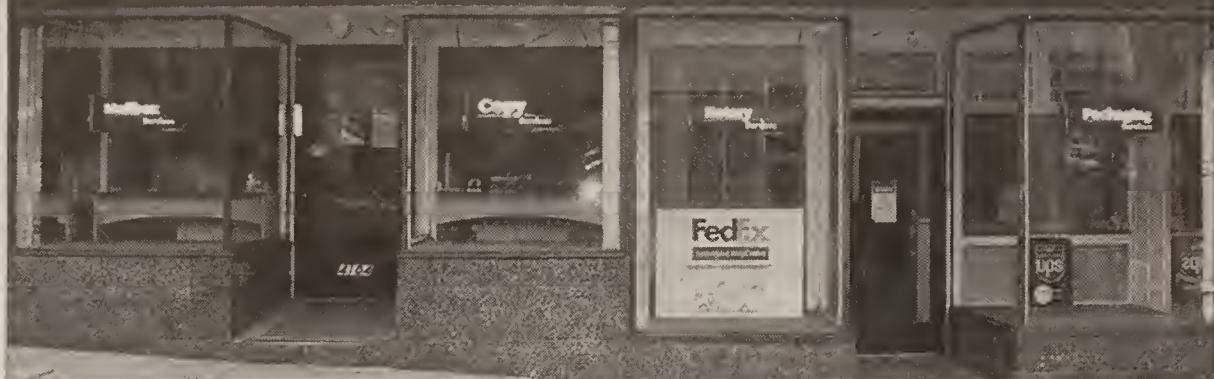
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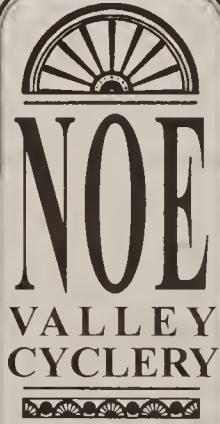
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## The Cost of Living in Noe

### \$3 Million Sale Tops a Lively March

By Corrie M. Anders

A contemporary-style house built last year on Hoffman Avenue sold in March for nearly \$3 million—the most expensive sale in Noe Valley since the real estate market slumped almost two years ago.

The hillside property was one of 13 single-family detached homes that closed escrow in March. It was the first time since last July that more than a dozen homes changed hands in a single month.

"Buyers are motivated again and lenders are lending again," said Randall Kostick, general manager for Zephyr Real Estate. The firm's 24th Street branch office supplies monthly sales data to the Voice.

Highlights of the large Hoffman Avenue residence included four bedrooms, 4.5 baths, au pair quarters, 4,400 square feet of living space, and dramatic views from multiple terraces. The house is located in the 400 block of Hoffman Avenue, between 24th and 25th streets.

The new owners paid \$2,970,000, slightly under the seller's \$3 million asking price. Prices have not been that lofty since July 2008, when buyers paid \$2,950,000 for a Noe Valley home.

The latest data may indicate that the Noe Valley market is starting to rise from the ruins of the Great Recession.

Kostick said consumers were "feeling a little better" about their job security and were displaying renewed faith in the economy. Some also were eager to beat an expected hike in mortgage interest rates.

"We're seeing multiple offers increasing...pointing to a pretty robust situation right now," Kostick said.

The 13 sales in March contrasted with five sales in February and nine in March 2009. In addition, buyers on average paid more than the asking price (101 percent). Last March, buyers were willing to pay only 94 percent of the original list price.

This year's transactions closed in a relatively short 35 days—less than half the time that new owners waited to pick up their keys a year ago.

Nine of the homes sold for \$1 million or more. But it was the Hoffman home that pushed the average sales price to \$1,369,130 for the month—nearly 14 percent more than last year's \$1,204,889 average.

(Note: The small sample sizes may limit the significance of these comparisons.)

March condominium sales showed resurgent strength as well. Buyers purchased 10 condos, three more than in February and five more than in March of '09. Deals typically were consummated in 30 days, with sellers accepting bids just below their asking price.

Condo values overall were also higher, pushed up by a three-bedroom, three-bath unit that sold for \$1,625,000 in 29 days. Thanks to that deal, the average sales price in March ballooned to \$1,065,555, compared to \$634,600 a year ago.

The chart-topping condo, built in 2007, has three bedrooms, three baths, and 1,750 square feet of living space. It is located in a two-unit building in the 1000 block of Sanchez Street, between 23rd and 24th streets.

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
March 2010	13	\$650,000	\$2,970,000	\$1,369,130	35	101%
February 2010	5	\$875,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,238,900	44	103%
March 2009	9	\$575,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,204,889	77	94%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
March 2010	10	\$700,000	\$1,625,000	\$1,065,555	30	99%
February 2010	7	\$580,000	\$848,000	\$716,000	64	100%
March 2009	5	\$435,000	\$859,000	\$634,600	43	99%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
March 2010	1	\$1,465,000	\$1,465,000	\$1,465,000	40	92%
February 2010	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2009	1	\$730,000	\$730,000	\$730,000	27	94%
<b>5+ unit buildings</b>						
March 2010	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2010	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)) for supplying the sales data.

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range April 2010	Average April 2010	Average March 2010	Average April 2009
Studio	6	\$1,165 – \$1,575	\$1,306 / mo.	\$1,376 / mo.	\$1,494 / mo.
1-bdrm	32	\$1,350 – \$2,950	\$1,834 / mo.	\$1,898 / mo.	\$1,916 / mo.
2-bdrm	41	\$1,795 – \$4,695	\$2,673 / mo.	\$2,698 / mo.	\$2,754 / mo.
3-bdrm	11	\$2,900 – \$6,200	\$4,054 / mo.	\$3,712 / mo.	\$4,330 / mo.
4+ bdrm	5	\$3,295 – \$6,995	\$4,548 / mo.	\$5,660 / mo.	\$6,800 / mo.

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 95 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.org from April 2 to 15, 2010.

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# POLICE BEAT

## REPORT FROM INGLESIDE STATION

The following crime tally covers incidents reported Feb. 11 to March 10, 2010, in Upper Noe Valley—the area roughly bounded by Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th, and Diamond streets. The incidents were culled from newsletters produced by Capt. David Lazar, commander of Ingleside Police Station, and his current replacement, Capt. Louis Cassanego (see sidebar). The log may not include all crimes reported during the period.

**March 10, 8:51 a.m., 500 block of 27th, Stolen Auto**

**March 20, 4 p.m., Dolores & 29th, Hit-and-Run**

**March 22, 8:04 p.m., 200 block of 30th, Possession of Stolen Property:** Officers Hurwitz and Daggett were working in plain clothes and driving an unmarked police car when they observed two men running along Mission Street and nervously looking over their shoulders. The suspects then stopped and began looking at the contents of a backpack. The officers stopped the two men, but one ran to a nearby bus and got away. The other stated that he had "only" shoplifted. The officers found items with a drugstore logo in the backpack. The theft was confirmed by the store manager. The suspect was booked. He had numerous prior theft arrests.

**March 23, 10:15 a.m., 100 block of Duncan, Stolen/Recovered Auto**

**March 27, 7:41 a.m., 1400 block of Guerrero, Vandalism:** Officer Soulette was on patrol when he responded to the report of a

### A TIP FROM THE CAPTAIN: LOCK THE STEERING WHEEL

*Editor's Note: In mid-March, Capt. Louis Cassanego took over as commanding officer at Ingleside Station, the police jurisdiction that covers the southern half of Noe Valley (and 21 other neighborhoods). Cassanego will guide operations at Ingleside for three to six months while former Ingleside Capt. David Lazar is on loan to the SFPD's crime lab investigation. The email newsletter that Lazar initiated at Ingleside last year has been continued by Cassanego, and you can sign up for the daily reports at SFPD Ingleside Station: Ingleside Station: Ingleside Station@sfgov.org. In one of Cassanego's recent email messages, he sent this tip to car owners:*

### Prevent Your Car from Being Stolen

APRIL 9, 2010: After reading numerous reports on stolen and recovered cars, I've found a few common traits:

- Most of the stolen cars are 1990s Hondas, Toyotas, and Nissans.
- The criminals are using a type of "master key."
- The theft takes less than a couple of minutes.
- The method is commonly known throughout the criminal community.

So how do you prevent your car from being targeted for theft?

The cheapest method is to use a steering locking device, commonly seen as a red metal bar. An alarm system can be pricey, but effective. In recent months, Ingleside Station officers have made several stolen-auto and auto-tampering arrests, but the impact has been minimal. Until we are able to arrest every auto thief, prevention is the best alternative.

—Capt. Louis Cassanego  
Ingleside Police Station

neighbor dispute. The victim said that he heard banging at his front door and then a crashing sound. When he went to investigate, he saw his neighbor at the door waving her cane. The neighbor then went back into her own house. Officer Soulette was unable to make contact with the suspect at her home.

**April 1, 12:43 p.m., 200 block of 30th, Suspicious Occurrence:** Officer Martinez responded to a multi-unit residence, where a woman reported that she buzzed in an unknown Hispanic male who had been incessantly ringing the bell. She looked out of her door to see who it was and spoke with the man, who told her he needed to enter her unit to look for mice. She had not been notified by the landlord about a service call and found the suspect suspicious. She told him to leave or she would call police. He did not immediately leave, so she called the police. The suspect was gone upon the officers' arrival. The victim acted appropriately regarding this suspicious occurrence.

**April 2, 8:36 a.m., 200 block of 30th, Recovered Vehicle**

**April 5, 1:30 p.m., 500 block of San Jose Ave., Trespassing:** Officer Goldsborough documented the arrest of four men who were trespassing in a vacant house on San Jose Ave. The officer was accompanied by Captain Cassanego, Sergeant Escobar, and numerous other officers. The four men were part of a protest demonstration that culminated with the suspects breaking into the house. The agents of the property owner responded to the scene and signed citizen's arrest forms for the suspects. The suspects were escorted from the premise, then cited and released. Many areas of the house were damaged, and the damage was noted in the police report.

**April 8, 7:53 a.m., 300 block of 29th, Burglary/Stolen Vehicle:** Officer Najarro was dispatched to the report of a stolen vehicle. The victim said that she returned to

her car, which had been parked in a garage, to find that it had been stolen. Also missing from the garage was a bicycle belonging to another tenant of the building.

**April 8, 7:53 a.m., 300 block 29th Street, Stolen Auto**

**April 10, 10 a.m., Valley & Church, Theft from Locked Vehicle:** A victim called 311 and reported that his vehicle was forcefully entered by an unknown suspect, who broke

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

### Mission and Ingleside

Noe Valley is split between two San Francisco police jurisdictions—Mission Police District and Ingleside Police District—with Cesar Chavez Street as the dividing line. Mission Station covers the northern half of the neighborhood, while Ingleside patrols the southern half. Both districts invite citizens to attend police community meetings, held monthly. Mission Police District holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at different locations in the district. This month, the meeting will be held May 18 at Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue.

#### Police Contacts

Mission Station: 558-5400  
Anonymous Tip Line: 552-4558  
Newsletter: sfpd.mission.station@sfgov.org  
Capt. Greg Corrales: 558-5455  
Gregory.Corrales@sfgov.org  
Ingleside Station: 404-4000  
Anonymous Tip Line: 587-8984  
Newsletter: sfpd.ingleside.station@sfgov.org  
Capt. Louis Cassanego: 404-4030  
Louis.Cassanego@sfgov.org

To file a police report, go to any local station or file online at [www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org).  
To report a crime in progress, call 911. Cell phone users can dial Police Dispatch directly: 415-553-8090.

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# POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

a window and pried the car door. The suspect took numerous items of property from the passenger compartment of the vehicle, including a GPS unit and iPod.

#### April 10, 11:04 p.m., 26th & Sanchez, Unlicensed Driver

**April 12, 8:07 a.m. Church & 30th, Pickpocket:** Officer Hopkins responded to a report of a robbery. The victim said that she was waiting at a bus stop when she noticed a male staring at her. She turned her head away, and that is when the suspect reached into her pocket and stole her cell phone. The suspect then fled the scene on foot. The suspect was described as a Hispanic male (5'7", 150 pounds, 16 to 18 years old), wearing a black hat with a black jacket and blue pants.

**April 12, 11:01 a.m., unit block of 29th, Burglary:** Officer Harris was dispatched to the report of a burglary. The victim said that someone had entered the store and stolen the safe from inside. There were no signs of forced entry into the building.

**April 13, 1:06 p.m., 1500 block of Sanchez, Credit Application Fraud:** A married couple told Officer Sanchez that they had been victims of fraud. They had received a bill from a company with whom they had no business. They learned from a company representative that an account had been opened in the husband's name and with the wife's social security number. They also discovered that someone had also attempted to open a credit card with a large chain store using the same information.

tion. The credit had been denied. They were advised to contact the credit reporting agencies also.

**April 13, 8:30 a.m., 400 block of 28th, Stolen Auto**

#### REPORT FROM MISSION STATION

*The Voice was unable to obtain a comprehensive tally of incidents occurring March 11 to April 10 in the part of Noe Valley covered by Mission Police Station. However, Voice staffer Jan Goben, with help from the SFPD's Mirna Melendez, gathered these incidents from newsletters issued by Mission Station Capt. Greg Corrales.*

**March 14, 3:30 a.m., 200 block of Clipper, Domestic Violence:** Officers Smith, Radford, and Long arrested a man accused of choking his boyfriend.

**March 19, 8 p.m., unit block of Elizabeth, Auto Burglary:** Upon returning to his truck, the victim discovered that an unknown suspect had broken in and stolen his property.

**March 29, 5:29 p.m., 24th & Diamond, Theft from Person:** The victim was sitting on a bench using his laptop when the suspect grabbed the laptop and ran away.

**April 10, 2:20 a.m., 1100 block of Church, Fugitive Apprehended:** Officers Masilang and Balingit were conducting an investigation when they encountered a man whom they determined had a felony warrant out for his arrest for violation of parole.

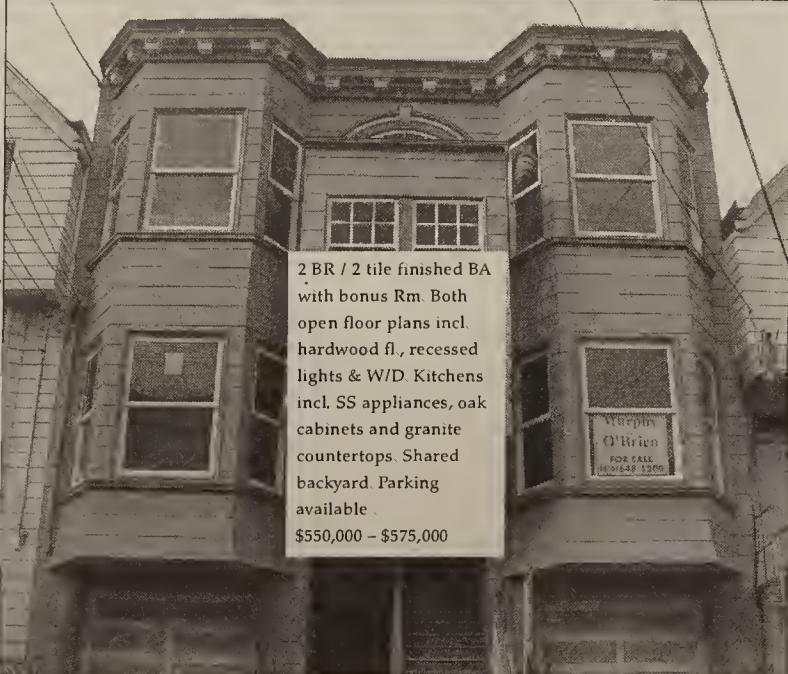


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#### Stay Alert on Muni

*The San Francisco Police Department is urging local residents to raise their safety antenna, particularly when riding Muni.*

**W**hile on Muni vehicles and at Muni bus stops and platforms, citizens are urged to be vigilant about their surroundings and to note any suspicious activity. While on Muni buses, be wary of persons standing especially close or jostling, which may indicate a possible pickpocket or robbery attempt. While waiting for a bus, try to be at a location where there are other persons waiting with you. If you are the only person waiting, go to another stop where there are others waiting.

Be especially careful when using electronic devices on transit vehicles. Opportunist criminals know that a person talking on a cell phone, listening to an iPod, or texting may be distracted and is thus an easy target. Try to avoid using any electronic device while seated or standing near the rear exit of a transit vehicle, since this door provides a quick exit for grab-and-run suspects.

If it is essential for you to use an electronic device on the street, be aware that you may be a target for theft. Opportunistic criminals, sometimes operating in groups, look for people using these devices and often will approach a victim from behind, knowing that the person talking on a cell phone, texting, or using an iPod may be distracted. Some criminals may be armed. Do not be so preoccupied that you become unaware of your surroundings and fail to notice a person acting suspiciously.

Immediately report any robbery by calling 911.

—San Francisco Police Department Media Relations



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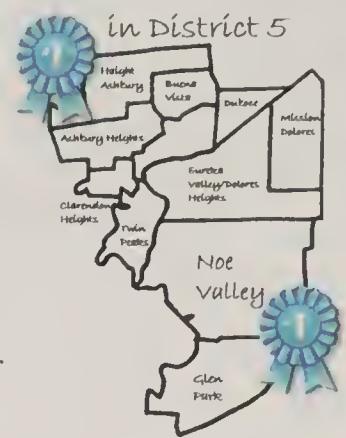
KAREN MCCARTHY

After a long and successful career in Internet Marketing, Karen has entered into the Real Estate field. Brown & Co. is honored to have her join them as an Associate in their Noe Valley Office.

Her previous sales and account management experience joined with her expertise in online marketing, blend seamlessly with her emphasis on providing exceptional client service. As a San Francisco property owner for the past 10 years, Karen brings a personal wealth of knowledge to each transaction.

When she isn't busy working tirelessly on her clients' behalf, Karen spends time with her husband and twin sons enjoying all of the beauty the Bay Area has to offer.

To contact Karen:  
email her at [karen@komccarthy.com](mailto:karen@komccarthy.com) or call 415.613.3581



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**Cheese Boutique:** 666 Chenery St.

**Canyon Market:** 2815 Diamond St.

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# SHORT TAKES

## A Glimpse at the Gardens

Volunteers are still needed to staff the fourth Noe Valley Garden Tour, blossoming on Saturday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Richard May of Friends of Noe Valley, the group sponsoring the event, says the chores are easy—volunteers sit at the gardens' entrances and take or sell tickets. "The reward is great—a free ticket enabling you to see eight beautiful gardens," he says.

Before or after their two-hour shift, volunteers can sample each of the other gardens, which are notable this year for their variety, says May. "One is a traditional Japanese garden designed by a Japanese designer. It has a water feature with two waterfalls, blooming lotus, and medaka fish to eat the mosquitoes." Another, created by Katey Mulligan of Atlas Landscaping, offers plants native to China and stonework modeled after the entrance to a garden in Shanghai, where one of the homeowners once lived.

There is a Liberty Hill garden with fig, lemon, and avocado trees; a hillside arbor with old roses and antique seating; and two gardens designed by Janet Moyer Landscaping, including one that circles a large remodeled farmhouse in the northwest corner of Noe Valley.

The approximate boundaries of the tour, May points out, are 21st to 30th Street, and Guerrero Street to Grand View Avenue. If you plan to walk it, comfortable shoes are advised. Proceeds from the event will go toward a neighborhood beautification project.

Tickets, which cost \$12, will go on sale on and around 24th Street on Saturday, May 22. (Children under 10 are free.) Look for stores with a Noe Valley Garden Tour poster in the window.

If you'd like to volunteer or you need more information, call May at 415-298-2344.

## Mellow Custer/Crooked Jades

The Noe Valley Music Series features new music and a new collaboration in May, starting with the soothing tones of the Beth Custer Ensemble on Saturday, May 8. Custer, a clarinet player graced with a mellifluous voice, joins her ensemble to perform new work culled from their critically acclaimed release *Roam*, as well as songs created during Custer's recent residency at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga. Influenced by jazz, funk, and Latin rock, the ensemble's melodies meld with Custer's view of the world as her musical oyster. Tickets cost \$16 in advance and \$18 at the door, and the show starts at 8:15 p.m.

On Saturday, May 22, the Crooked Jades will pick up their old-fashioned instruments and join the modern dance group Kate Weare Company to preview "Gone Before and Rattling," an exploration of the cyclical nature of human ex-



This peaceful garden, designed by Katey Mulligan of Atlas Landscaping, is one of eight waiting to be explored in the 2010 Noe Valley Garden Tour on June 12. Photo by Cynde AveLallemand



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## Panel on Health Reform Law

The Noe Valley Democratic Club will sponsor a panel discussion on the nation's historic health care overhaul on Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m., at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond Street, between Elizabeth and 24th streets.

Dan Bernal, a top aide to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, will moderate the discussion, which will center on the ramifications of the new law for a wide swath of American society. Panelists will include Herb Schultz, regional director of health and human resources for the 9th Federal District; Linda Lew, Northern California regional organizer for the Health Access Foundation of California; and John Caratzas, former director of the Small Business Majority, a nonprofit organization.

Molly Fleischman, the club's vice president, says a fourth speaker who has yet to be named will talk on how the legislation, signed into law on March 23, will affect Medicare and senior citizens. Q&A will follow the short presentations.

—Noel Lieberman

"We underwent a huge cut in state funding this year," Smith says.

While each California community college district will make its own decision on how to cope with less money, City College looked for savings by cutting summer school rather than reducing classes in the fall and spring.

"The choice was made to protect students getting through class sequences in the regular school year," says Smith.

Further savings was found by putting the course catalog online rather than mailing a paper version to every household, as has happened in years past, Smith says. Instead, interested students must go online at [www.ccsf.edu](http://www.ccsf.edu) to see the schedule. Registration starts Monday, June 21, for the fall semester, which begins Monday, Aug. 16.

## Need a Designer Doghouse?

Bring your pooch to the lush digs of the Palace Hotel Saturday, May 15, and bid on designer doghouses and cat condos to benefit a nonprofit organization that provides companion pets to the sick and needy.

"Petchitecture 15," an evening of food, drink, and auction bidding, is hosted by and for Pets Are Wonderful Support. For 23 years, the group has provided pet food, veterinary care, and volunteers so nearly 800 people can have the companionship of pets, says PAWS president John Lipp. (Bethany Church on Sanchez Street used to be a PAWS pet food outlet.)

Clients are low-income people living with HIV/AIDS, the disabled, and seniors barely getting by on Social Security. The number of people PAWS serves has grown by more than 30 percent in the past two years, Lipp says.

The annual Petchitecture event includes an exhibition of one-of-a-kind pet habitats created by some of the Bay Area's top architects and designers, including Greg DeLory, Gensler, Anshen + Allen, Huntsman Architectural Group, and Goren Architecture + Design. You can take a look at the petchitects' cat perches, dog divans, and bird sanctuaries at [www.pawssf.org](http://www.pawssf.org).

Tickets cost \$150, and can be bought online. Fully licensed and vaccinated dogs are welcomed. The evening runs from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery Street. For more information, call 415-979-9550.

—Heather World



## Long Summer for City College

School is cancelled at San Francisco City College this summer as a cost-saving measure, but the closed doors mean students can expect a full schedule in the fall, says Bruce Smith, dean of the Castro/Valencia Campus on Church Street.

Only a small number of courses necessary for certification will be offered this summer, and most of those will be at the John Adams Campus on Hayes Street, Smith says. The Everett Middle School campus will remain dark.



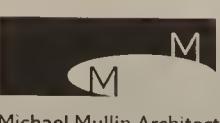
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Michael Mullin Architect

**May 1:** Cover to Cover bookstore celebrates KIDS "OTTER" READ by the Bay Day, featuring authors Thacher Hurd, Jon Agee, Tim Myers, and Liz Hockinson. 1-3 pm. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**May 1-23:** The Marsh presents workshop performances of *Geezer*, by Noe Valley actor and comedian GEOFF HOYLE. Fri. 8 pm, Sat. 8:30 pm, Sun. 7 pm (except May 9, 8 pm). 1062 Valencia. 271-3256; [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

**May 1-29:** OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mon.-Sat., 7 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** Hear singing and strumming by local bands while you shop at the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET, held Saturdays, 8 am-1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; [www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com).

**May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** Andrea's BELLY DANCE BOOTCAMP includes strengthening exercises. 12:30-1:30 pm. MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church. [www.andreabellydance.com](http://www.andreabellydance.com).

**May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29:** Craig Ventresco and Meredith Axelrod play RAGTIME and blues at the Atlas Cafe. 4-6 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047.

**May 1-30:** City Guides offers WALKING TOURS of the Castro on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro & Market) under the rainbow flag. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**May 1-June 2:** Ben Walker exhibits his artwork in "Those Wicked Woods," a solo show at MISSION COMICS. Reception May 1, 7 pm; Tues.-Sun., noon-8 pm. 3520 20th, Suite B. [www.missioncomic-sandart.com](http://www.missioncomic-sandart.com).

**May 2:** Music on the Hill presents Les Graces, performing "Passion and Rebirth: Sacred Music of the GERMAN BAROQUE." 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Goldmine. 820-1429.

**May 2 & 16:** SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

# CALENDAR

**May 2, 9, 16 & 23:** Learn about MISSION DOLORES at a City Guides walk on Sundays, 11 am. Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**May 3:** Margaret Kaufman and fellow POETS read from *The Place That Inhabits Us: Poems of the SF Bay Area Watershed*, at the Odd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**May 3-28:** Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Call to reserve a spot, 648-1030.

**May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31:** You can be funny on Mondays at Bliss Bar at COMEDY Open Mic Night, starting 8 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200; [www.blissbarsf.com](http://www.blissbarsf.com).

**May 3-31:** Chris Sequeira offers free Wednesday and Friday introductory QIGONG/TAI CHI at the Glen Park baseball field, Elk & Chenery, at 10:30 am, and at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, at 6 pm Mondays. [livingtai-chiprinciples.blogspot.com](http://livingtai-chiprinciples.blogspot.com); 773-8185.

**May 4 & 11:** The Noe Valley Library's Family STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for kids of all ages, runs from 11 to 11:30 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfl.org](http://www.sfl.org).

**May 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STORY HOUR, for babies to age 4. 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

**May 4, 11, 18 & 25:** Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:45 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

**May 4 & June 1:** The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

**May 5:** Creativity Explored hosts "Art Changes Lives 2010," its sixth annual

ART AUCTION and "a celebration of color." 6:30-10 pm. Foreign Cinema, 2534 Mission. 863-2108; [www.creativityexplored.org](http://www.creativityexplored.org).

**May 5, 12, 19 & 26:** Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for 0-18 months, begins at 1:30 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616.

**May 5-30:** ArtZone Gallery exhibits new artists in "Introductions 2010," and works by representative artist GORDON COOK. Wed.-Sun., Noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680.

**May 6-15:** Claire Kessler-Bradner's MFA exhibition, "NOE VALLEY: A Narrative Archaeology," is on display at California College of the Arts. Reception May 6, 6-9 pm; daily 10 am-7 pm. 1111 8th. 703-9500; [www.clairekesslerbradner.com](http://www.clairekesslerbradner.com).

**May 6-27:** Paxton Gate hosts a STORY TIME for children of all ages. 11 am-noon. 824 Valencia. 824-1872; [www.PaxtonGate.com](http://www.PaxtonGate.com).

**May 6, 13, 20 & 27:** PAL TIME is a class for kids 18 months to 3 years. 8:30 am. MoBu Dance Studio, 1605 Church. 550-PALS; [www.pal-ersize.com](http://www.pal-ersize.com).

**May 6, 13, 20 & 27:** A Thursday STROLLER WALK through the neighborhood starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am. 3872 24th. [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**May 7:** The Freedom Socialist Party screens a DOCUMENTARY, *Sacco and Vanzetti*. Hearty Italian supper, 6:30 pm; film 7:30 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin #202. 864-1278.

**May 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936; [www.doloresparkcafe.org](http://www.doloresparkcafe.org).

**May 7, 14, 21 & 28:** CLARE thrills kids at Cover to Cover's story hour. Fridays, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**May 7, 14, 21 & 28:** The Friday night "Jazz in the Bookshop" series at BIRD &

BECKETT begins at 5:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; [www.birdbeckett.com](http://www.birdbeckett.com).

**May 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Shout "BINGO!" at St. Paul's at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

**May 8:** LADYBUG GARDENERS invites you to help weed and tend the park at Upper Noe Rec Center on the second Saturday of the month. 9 am-noon. Day & Sanchez. Call to confirm, 970-8061; [jrlion@aol.com](mailto:jrlion@aol.com).

**May 8:** The annual Fair Oaks STREET FAIR features five blocks of garage sales. Fair Oaks between 21st and 26th (and Dolores and Guerrero). 9 am-5 pm.

**May 8:** The Noe Valley Library hosts "Roots Review," a tour of AMERICAN MUSIC and dance for all ages. 11 am-noon. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfl.org](http://www.sfl.org).

**May 8:** A SENIOR RESOURCE Fair at the Main Library features health screenings, information, and entertainment. Noon-4 pm. 100 Larkin. 557-4400.

**May 8:** Local doulas and MIDWIVES gather on second Saturdays at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; [www.naturalresources-sf.com](http://www.naturalresources-sf.com).

**May 8:** Laura Werlin celebrates the 10th anniversary of her first book, *The New American CHEESE*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 8:** The jazz/funk/Latin/rock BETH CUSTER Ensemble performs a concert at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [www.noevalymusicseries.com](http://www.noevalymusicseries.com).

**May 8:** WRITERS With Drinks hosts readings by Molly Gloss and Karen Tei Yamashita. 7:30 pm. Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd. [www.writerswithdrinks.com](http://www.writerswithdrinks.com).

**May 8, 9, 14-16:** The Marsh Youth Theater performs MOZART'S *The Magic Flute*. May 8, 5 pm; May 9, 15 & 16, 2:30 pm; May 14, 7:30 pm. 1062 Valencia. 826-5750; [www.themarsh.com](http://www.themarsh.com).

**May 9:** A monthly PFLAG meeting runs from 2 to 4 pm at St. Francis Lutheran Church. 152 Church. 921-8850; [www.pflagsf.org](http://www.pflagsf.org).

**May 9:** Carole Bloom shares recipes from *Bite-Size DESSERTS*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 10:** Atlas Cafe's BOOK CLUB discusses *Unscientific America*, by Chris Mooney and Sheril Kirshenbaum. 7-9 pm Books, Inc., 601 Van Ness. 648-1047; [www.sciencecafesf.com](http://www.sciencecafesf.com).

**May 11:** COMEDIANS Sammy Wegent and Allison Page perform sketches and improv. 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfl.org](http://www.sfl.org).

**May 12:** The dedication ceremony for ZHANG HUAN's copper sculpture *Three Heads Six Arms* begins at 10 am in Civic Center Plaza, on the Larkin side; the artist gives a talk at the Asian Art Museum (200 Larkin) from 7 to 8 pm. 581-3500; [www.sfarthcommission.org](http://www.sfarthcommission.org).

**May 13:** The SF Bike Coalition's 16th annual BIKE TO WORK DAY features a party and fashion show from 6 to 10 pm at the Rickshaw Stop. 155 Fell. 431-BIKE; [www.sfbike.org](http://www.sfbike.org).

**May 13:** Openhouse Outreach invites LGBT SENIORS to second-Thursday meetings at 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. 296-8995.

**May 13:** RADICAL WOMEN celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a panel discussion. Buffet 6:15 pm; program 7 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin, suite 202. 864-1278.

**May 14:** *Opium Magazine's* literary DEATH MATCH features readers from 6:30 to 9 pm; Free Funk Friday begins at 10 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788; [www.elbo.com](http://www.elbo.com).

**May 14-16:** Teens from the SF School of the Arts present their annual DANCE CONCERT. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 345-7575; [www.fortmason.org/boxoffice](http://www.fortmason.org/boxoffice).

**May 15:** The Spring CONSIGNMENT SALE, hosted by the SF Parents of Multiples Club, offers clothes and toys for youngsters up to age 8. 9 am-3 pm. St.

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- ▶ Learn helpful pet tips and more

May 22, 2010  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
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# MAY 2010

Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough.  
[www.sfpom.org](http://www.sfpom.org).

**May 15:** The Garden for the Environment gives a talk on creating and maintaining BEE HABITATS in San Francisco. 10 a.m.-noon. 7th Ave. at Lawton. 731-5627.

**May 15:** The Women of St. Paul host their sixth annual HIGH TEA, to benefit the organization. Rectory, 221 Valley. RSVP by May 8 to 333-8814.

**May 15:** Victoria Wise, who cooked the first meal at Chez Panisse, explains the creation of SAUSAGE. 3-4 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 15 & 30:** City Guides hosts a free walking tour of Sigmund STERN GROVE. Meet at 11 a.m. at 19th Ave. and Sloat. 557-4266; [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).

**May 16:** Mixt SALADS, by Andrew Swallow, features more than 60 recipes. 3-4 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 17:** Emergency room PSYCHIATRIST Dr. Paul Linde discusses his book *Danger to Self at the Odd Mondays* series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 p.m.; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 p.m. (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**May 17:** New York Times FOOD EDITOR Kim Severson introduces her new memoir, *Spoon Fed: How Eight Cooks Saved My Life*. 6-7 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 17:** Atlas Café hosts a discussion, "Mendel, EVOLUTION, and Your Hairy Knuckles," with Scott Weitz of SFSU. 7-9 p.m. 3049 20th. 648-1047; [www.sciencecafest.com](http://www.sciencecafest.com).

**May 18:** FILMS for children age 5 and under screen from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**May 18:** The Noe Valley Library hosts a DISCUSSION of the city's GreenFinanceSF program. 7-8:30 p.m. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**May 18:** San Francisco Choral Artists group performs a CHORAL MUSIC con-

cert, including Frank La Rocca's *Miserere* and Trevor Gomes' *Sunscape*. 8 p.m. Old First Concerts, 1751 Sacramento. 474-1608. [www.oldfirstconcerts.org](http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org).

**May 18:** Amy Besa, co-owner of Cendrillon restaurant, talks about *Memories of PHILIPPINE Kitchens*. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 18:** Zephyr Realty and sea.design host a free seminar on the value of making HOME IMPROVEMENTS. 7-8 p.m. 2523 California. RSVP to [sharpelopkins@zephyrself.com](mailto:sharpelopkins@zephyrself.com).

**May 19:** The VISUAL ARTS Committee of the SF Arts Commission meets third Wednesdays at 3 p.m. 25 Van Ness, Suite 70. 252-2590; [www.sartscommission.org](http://www.sartscommission.org).

**May 19:** The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group meets 7 to 8:30 p.m. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [www.sfppl.org](http://www.sfppl.org).

**May 20:** The Noe Valley Merchants & Professionals Association's BUSINESS SOCIAL honors letter carrier Dan Price, Jane Warner of the Special Patrol, and several longtime local businesses. 6 p.m. Wells Fargo Bank, 4023 24th. 550-0128.

**May 20:** The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7:30 p.m. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414; [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org).

**May 21:** The Randall Museum hosts a two-hour "BIRDING on the Hill" walk around Corona Heights Park. 8 a.m. Meet at 199 Museum. 554-9600; [www.randal museum.org](http://www.randal museum.org).

**May 21:** Family Builders honors Supervisor BEVAN DUFTY at a luncheon, plus auction. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter. RSVP by May 14: 510-272-0204.

**May 21:** Author Sarah Max Feldner takes *A Cook's Journey to JAPAN: Fish Tales and Rice Paddies*. 6-7 p.m. Omnivore

Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 21:** JOSIE ISELIN introduces her new book, *Beach: A Book of Treasure*. 7 p.m. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal. 564-8080; [www.lovingblind.com](http://www.lovingblind.com).

**May 21-23:** Visit the SF FINE ART FAIR, showcasing 500 artists. Fri., noon-8 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. [www.sffineartfair.com](http://www.sffineartfair.com).

**May 22:** The Older Women's League (OWL) hosts a discussion, "Moving Around the City: Let's Stay Active," especially for persons with limited mobility. 10 a.m.-noon. Mechanics Institute, 57 Post. 989-4422; [www.owlself.org](http://www.owlself.org).

**May 22:** Janet Moyer created the Forest Hill GARDENS on the SF Botanical Garden Society's tour of urban gardens for families. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 661-1316, ext. 354; [www.sfbotanicalgarden.com](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.com).

**May 22:** Tom Miller signs copies of *The Wave* at the SF MYSTERY Bookstore. 1-2 p.m. 4175 24th. 282-7444.

**May 22:** OPEN HOUSE at Sanchez Street Studio offers introductions to Pilates, Rolfing, yoga, and Ayurvedic medicine. 1-3 p.m. 1589 Sanchez. 648-4911.

**May 22:** Marion Nestle and Malden Nesheim offer recipes to *FEED YOUR PET RIGHT*. 3-4 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 22:** Robert Philipson hosts a launch for his new book of POEMS, *Very Good-Looking Seeks Same*. 5-6:30 p.m. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market. 865-5555; [www.sfccenter.org](http://www.sfccenter.org).

**May 22:** The CROOKED JADES and the Kate Weare Dance Company team up for a concert at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 p.m. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [www.novalleymusicseries.com](http://www.novalleymusicseries.com).

**May 23:** Take a relaxed RIDE along the city's new bike lanes from Potrero-Hill to the Panhandle, sponsored by the SF

Bicycle Coalition. Meet at Illinois & Third at 3 p.m. 431-81KE; [bikebuddy@sfbike.org](mailto:bikebuddy@sfbike.org).

**May 23:** Barbara Passino discusses her book, *CHOCOLATE for Breakfast*. 3-4 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 23:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC at the Noe Valley Ministry features tenor Thomas Glenn and composer/pianist Jack Perla, a silent auction, and refreshments to close the 2010 season. 4 p.m. 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; [www.nvcm.org](http://www.nvcm.org).

**May 23:** LITQUAKE hosts The Epicenter, a new free monthly series of gatherings for writers and readers. 7-9 p.m. Five-points Arthouse, 72 Tehama. 989-1166; [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org).

**May 24:** PASTRY CHEF Kim Boyce includes 75 recipes in *Good to the Grain*. 6-7 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 25:** Wendy Jorae discusses her book, *The Children of CHINATOWN: Growing Up Chinese-American in San Francisco, 1850-1920*, at the monthly SF History Association meeting. 7 p.m. refreshments; 8 p.m. talk. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; [www.sanfranciscohistory.org](http://www.sanfranciscohistory.org).

**May 26:** The Noe Valley MERCHANTS & Professionals Association welcomes newcomers to its monthly meeting. 9 a.m. Bank of America, 2nd Floor, 4098 24th. Robert Roddick, 641-8687.

**May 26:** The Noe Valley Democratic Club hosts a panel discussion on the country's new HEALTH CARE REFORM law, moderated by Dan Bernal. 7:30 p.m. St. Philip's, 725 Diamond.

**May 27:** In *STIR-FRYING to the Sky's Edge*, Grace Young offers a guide to mastery of the technique. 6-7 p.m. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com).

**May 28:** Former POET LAUREATE of Portsmouth, N.H., Mimi White reads from her book, *The Last Island*. 7 p.m. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

**May 29:** The AFRICAN VIOLET Society offers free workshops on culturing and growing. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. SF County Fair Building, 9th Ave. at Lincoln. 664-9308.

**May 29 & 30:** SF CARNAVAL 2010 features music, dance, crafts, food, and activities for children. Parade 9:30 a.m. from 24th and Bryant; festival 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Harrison between 16th and 22nd. [www.sfcarnaval.com](http://www.sfcarnaval.com).

**May 31:** PLANET DRUM's Peter Berg and Judy Goldhaft discuss their book *Envisioning Sustainability* at the Odd Mondays series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 p.m.; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 p.m. (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**June 5:** The San Francisco Guitar Quartet and Teja Gerken hold a GUITAR SUMMIT at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [www.novalleymusicseries.com](http://www.novalleymusicseries.com).

**June 6:** Precita Eyes Mural Arts hosts a MURAL WALK on first Saturdays. Meet at 11 a.m. at the 16th Street BART plaza near the Wells Fargo Bank sign. 285-2287; [www.precitaeyes.org](http://www.precitaeyes.org).

**June 7:** Rocket DOG RESCUE has dogs who need you. Noon-4 p.m. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

**June 7:** Irving Saraf and Allie Light introduce their FILM *Empress Hotel* at Odd Mondays at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 p.m.; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 p.m.

## JUNE CROON SOON

**May 15** is the deadline for next month's Calendar in the *Noe Valley Voice*, distributed the first week of June. Email items to [calendar@noevalueyoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalueyoice.com) or write Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., S.F., CA 94114. Note: Events in Noe Valley and surrounding neighborhoods may receive priority. Thank you.



## JUNE 8, 2010 STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

This June, San Francisco voters will nominate candidates for partisan offices in a statewide primary election, as well as vote on 5 state and 7 local ballot measures.

**San Francisco, your vote is your voice!**  
**Register, get informed, and make your voice be heard!**

Visit [sfelections.org](http://sfelections.org) for useful election resources, including:

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- Vote-by-mail applications
- Candidate statements
- Ballot measure summaries

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## EVENTS MAY 2010

### OMNIVORE BOOKS

SUN., MAY 2 • PAUL HALSTEAD • CUISINE FOR WHOLE HEALTH: RECIPES FOR A SUSTAINABLE LIFE • 3-4 p.m.

SAT., MAY 8 • LAURA WERLIN • THE NEW AMERICAN CHEESE • 3-4 p.m. Laura Werlin is one of the country's foremost authorities on cheese.

SUN., MAY 9 • CAROLE BLOOM • BITE-SIZE DESSERTS: CREATING MINI SWEET TREATS • 3-4 p.m. • Master baker Carole Bloom has collected a wide range of mini desserts here, and you're sure to find one that is perfect for every occasion.

SAT., MAY 15 • VICTORIA WISE • SAUSAGE • 3-4 p.m. • Wise, who cooked the first meal served at Chez Panisse guides us through the making of a vast array of sausages that can either be shaped by hand or stuffed into casings.

SUN., MAY 16 • ANDREW SWALLOW • MIXT SALADS • 3-4 p.m. • The co-founder and executive chef of San Francisco's beloved boutique salad joints shares his inventive, flavor-forward creations.

MON., MAY 17 • KIM SEVERSON • SPOON FED: HOW EIGHT COOKS SAVED MY LIFE • 6-7 p.m. • Severson, food writer for the New York Times since 2004, attributes her culinary confidence to the tutelage of eight maternal figures, from the legendary to the not-so-famous.

TUES., MAY 18 • AMY BESA • MEMORIES OF PHILIPPINE KITCHENS • 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Filipino cuisine both old and new.

FRI., MAY 21 • SARAH MAX FELDNER • A COOK'S JOURNEY TO JAPAN: FISH TALES AND RICE PADDIES • 6-7 p.m. • Sake will be poured!

SAT., MAY 22 • MARION NESTLE AND MALDEN NESHEIM • FEED YOUR PET RIGHT: THE AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE TO FEEDING YOUR DOG AND CAT • 3-4 p.m. • How to choose the most healthful foods for your pet.

SUN., MAY 23 • BARBARA PASSINO • CHOCOLATE FOR BREAKFAST • 3-4 p.m. • Join us for a passion-filled conversation.

MON., MAY 24 • KIM BOYCE • GOOD TO THE GRAIN • 6-7 p.m. • Whole-grain baking is more about incredible flavors and textures than anything else.

THURS., MAY 27 • GRACE YOUNG • STIR-FRYING TO THE SKY'S EDGE: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO MASTERY • 6-7 p.m. • Learn to create a magical "alchemic flavor" from raw ingredients.

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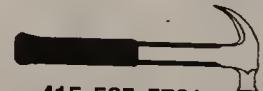
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# STORE TREK

**S**tore Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a homeopathy practice with a new roster of practitioners, and a medical doctor who recently rode into the neighborhood on a bike.

**NOE VALLEY HOMEOPATHY**  
1199 Sanchez Street at 25th Street  
415-695-8200  
[info@noevalleyhomeopathy.com](mailto:info@noevalleyhomeopathy.com)  
<http://noevalleyhomeopathy.com/>

"Most people come into homeopathy because they have had a positive experience with homeopathy with their kids. As a parent, you just never forget that," says Kathleen Scheible, who took up homeopathy after her son's chronic ear problems were effectively treated by homeopathic remedies.

"That spring [2005], I went to an information session at a homeopathy school and was so impressed and intrigued on an intellectual level, and had a positive experience, I knew I had to study it."

A year later, Scheible enrolled in the Pacific Academy of Homeopathy.

Now she and seven other practitioners make up Noe Valley Homeopathy, a collective of integrative health practitioners in the corner building at Sanchez and 25th streets. Though the practice began in 1998, the original founders have left for new pastures. In the past year, several newcomers have joined the group, which specializes in a range of pediatrics, reproductive, and mental health issues.

All eight practitioners have completed their clinical hours, plus three to four years of training in classical homeopathy, developed by German physician Samuel Hahnemann in the late 18th century. Scheible describes homeopathy as "a form of holistic medicine by which the underlying constitution of a person is strengthened.... All of a person's symptoms as well as personal qualities are used in considering which one homeopathic remedy a person needs."

During an initial visit lasting 60 to 90 minutes, a practitioner will ask a series of questions about a client's personal health history, their emotional health, and their physical symptoms.

"We are very grateful when people come in with a physical symptom," says Claudia Schmitz, a new member of the practice and a registered nurse from Switzerland.

"We love the symptoms," concurs An Van de Moortel, another new member, "because they can be an information carrier. Symptoms inform us something is not functioning well," says Van de Moortel, who received her training in Belgium.

Mary Johnston, who has been a part of the practice for more than eight years, tries to find out "what's individual about your headache." By knowing that information, she can identify the remedy—which usually is a minute, super-diluted dose of the very substance that would create the symptoms in a healthy person. "Like cures like" is the principal, Scheible points out.

Karen Allen, one of two practitioners with certification from the Council for Homeopathic Certification, became a homeopath after seeing its success with her daughter. She summed up the group's thinking on the role of homeopathy: "We need the entire continuum of health care, from emergency room to complementary care." Van de Moortel adds, "In a healthy health care landscape, there are real choices."

Allen acknowledges that the health



Noe Valley Homeopathy on Sanchez Street has a healthy balance of practitioners these days, including (from left) An Van de Moortel, Claudia Schmitz, Mary Johnston, John Burns, and Kathleen Scheible.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

care world has fewer homeopaths than it did a hundred years ago. "In the United States in 1915, 20 to 25 percent of the doctors practiced homeopathy." But according to Van de Moortel, "Half of the doctors in France, Germany, Belgium, and Netherlands" practice homeopathy today. Van de Moortel wants "to make homeopathy a household word again."

To that end, Noe Valley Homeopathy will host an open house on Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to noon. The group also plans to hold seminars on such topics as homeopathy for children and homeopathy at home.

In addition, Noe Valley Homeopathy will continue meeting with the Noe Valley Integrative Practitioners Group, a network of doctors and complementary health care providers, such as homeopaths, body workers, acupuncturists, and nutritionists. The group formed dur-



Dr. Alex Zaphiris of Family Practice is her own mobile unit when she makes house calls in Noe Valley. Photo courtesy Dr. Zaphiris

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ing last year's flu season, "partially as a means of sharing information about the various prevention, treatment, and recovery protocols for the flu," says Scheible. Its goal is to strengthen ties between alternative and conventional medicine.

Noe Valley Homeopathy's office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For an appointment, call 415-695-8200 or email [info@noevalleyhomeopathy.com](mailto:info@noevalleyhomeopathy.com). NVH also houses the Pacific Academy of Homeopathy, directed by Karen Allen. Allen holds student clinics once a month on Friday and Saturday.

**ALEX ZAPHIRIS, M.D.**  
1286 Sanchez Street between 26th and Clipper streets  
415-642-0333  
[az@alexzaphiris.com](mailto:az@alexzaphiris.com)  
<http://alexzaphiris.com/>

Imagine a doctor who makes house calls. Now imagine a doctor who makes house calls on an electric bicycle. This physician does just that, and her name is Alex Zaphiris. She is the newest member of the nine-year-old Family Practice, located at 1286 Sanchez Street.

Carrying her baby scale, stethoscope, and doctor's bag, Dr. Zaphiris pedals her bicycle to visit newborn babies at their homes on their second day of life.

She also does home visits for adults—in the evening or on weekends, if necessary. "The unit of care is the family," she says. "You can take better care of children if you take care of Mom." Or Dad or Grandma.

Her appointment book reflects this style as well. "We often do office visits of family members back to back," she says.

Zaphiris, a resident of the Lower Haight, says she chose Noe Valley for her practice because the neighborhood "feels like a small town in a city." Twenty-five percent of her clients hail from Noe Valley and another 25 percent from the Castro and the Mission, she says.

In addition to being certified by the American Board of Family Medicine—she is a graduate of UCSF School of Medicine—Zaphiris holds a certificate from the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine. She also is a member of the American Academy of Osteopathy, the Cranial Academy, and the National Center for Homeopathy. She believes she is the "only one in San Francisco who does all three"—western medicine, osteopathy, and homeopathy. "I want to use multiple tools to take care of my patients," she says. "People don't want to take the antibiotic. They want to get better."

Zaphiris also belongs to the newly formed Noe Valley Integrative Practitioners Group (see Noe Valley Homeopathy, at left). Together with the two founding members of Family Practice—Dr. Daphne Miller and Dr. Avril Swan—she feels she can provide integrative primary care for the whole family.

Zaphiris notes that Family Practice is currently hosting a monthly workshop/lecture series called the Waiting Room. The May workshop, titled "Pediatric First Aid," will be led by Zaphiris and Swan. "It will go through many common scenarios parents or babysitters are likely to encounter. We'll include discussion of integrative approaches," says Zaphiris.

The event takes place on Sunday, May 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Zaphiris says Family Practice is asking a \$20 donation to benefit PFLAG (parents and friends of lesbians and gays). Future topics at the Waiting Room include Anxiety and Depression, the Science of Love, and How to Get Your Baby to Sleep.

Zaphiris' office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. To make an appointment, call 415-642-0333. For more information, go to her website, <http://alexzaphiris.com/>.

—Karen Topakian

## Betty Taisch Top Producer



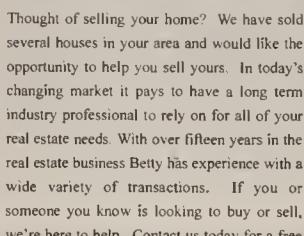
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Chattanooga Street resident **Barkley Dean** pauses during a recent trip to Tokyo for the Hanami (cherry blossom) viewing season. Here, he checks the hometown news while waiting at the largest train station in Japan.

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Instead of looking to the creativity and ingenuity of residents and business owners, these few chose to ignore rules and regulations, change public plans, disrupt lives and put people on the defensive. There wasn't an outcry for a plaza until one was presented as a done deal. Now we "need" one.

We've been shown a counterfeit idea of what we need, what we want and what we'll get: A rendering that grays out the neighbors and the businesses which make this so much more than an intersection. We don't see ourselves in this picture because they didn't see us as part of this plan.

The extreme empiricism of "Let's block a street and see what happens!" is not just poor urban planning, it belittles the needs of those who live and work here. This is top-down planning masquerading as community-driven design.

Noe Valley is not a mall, not Main Street Disneyland. It's not run by a manager in an office somewhere. It's an urban neighborhood.

We don't want to close Noe. We want the opportunity to re-imagine this as a true community project. We want everyone invited.

Check out [www.keepnoeopen.wordpress.com](http://www.keepnoeopen.wordpress.com)

or

stop by RMC at 1234 Castro to sign the petition against closing Noe Street

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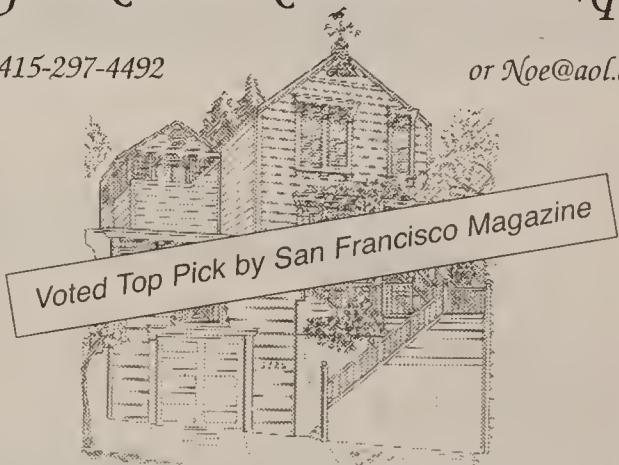
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**Such Beauty and Grace.** The underside and back of this Cala Lily on Valley Street curl up toward the light.

Photo by Nojib Joe Hakim

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

# SCHOOL REPORT

## It's Harvest Time for Students at James Lick

By Heidi Anderson

Last fall, eight wooden raised garden beds were installed in the upper yard at James Lick Middle School with the help of several community members—including the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, James Lick staff and parents, and employees from the Whole Foods Market on 24th Street.

Since then, everything's been coming up roses—or rather, lettuce, nasturtium, and scarlet runner beans.

"We just harvested the garden, and the crop was way larger than any of us had anticipated," says Michael Longnecker, who teaches math and science at the Noe Street school, plus an elective gardening class. He says 90 students have taken part over the course of this school year.

Students in the science class have been learning about plant biology, while those in the gardening class have been studying some more practical concepts, such as how to grow foods organically and use past-prime veggies for compost.

"They're out there working in the garden sometimes for the majority of the class time," says Longnecker.

As promised when the program began, the kids are getting lots of encouragement and real-life information from the community, with visits from organic farmers, Whole Foods staff, and even chefs from the California Culinary Academy.

The seventh-graders have naturally been curious to taste the products of their planting, watering, and scientific observations.

Student gardener Nery Lara says she tried the lettuce, if a bit hesitantly. "It was good." She says she normally wouldn't have tried it, but it was fun to taste the leafy vegetable after watching it grow.

Classmate Noe Roman says he tried the peas. He also says he likes that "everything in the garden is so organic."

Francisco Cardona Rojas has enjoyed becoming a gardener, too. "We get to go outside and plant things and then watch it all grow," he says. "The sweet peas we



Student gardeners (left to right) Francisco Cardona Rojas, Noe Roman, and Nery Lara enjoy tending the flowers, herbs, and vegetables in Lick's outdoor planters. Photo by Pamela Gerard

planted turned out really, really good!"

The garden now is filling up with an assortment of peas, rosemary, cilantro, mint, chives, artichokes, cabbage, and some peppers. What is harvested will be tasted in class and, if the tasters agree,

sent home to students' families.

When school lets out over the summer, parent Mara Sieling, who is a professional gardener, will keep the garden going.

"It'll be mostly watering and weeding," says Sieling. She's been in the gardening business for about six years and lives on Chattanooga Street.

"It'll be easy for me to come by once or twice a week, and I'm hoping to get a few more volunteers to join me." (Email her at [marasamara@yahoo.com](mailto:marasamara@yahoo.com).)

There is talk of the students hosting a stall at the Saturday Farmers' Market on 24th Street. Longnecker says selling the food is a matter of logistics, including getting permits and arranging for adult supervision at the market.

Still, he says, "I know that there's a lot of hope that we can do that next year."



**Extra Cool Jazz:** In late March, the kids at Alvarado School were treated to a jazz concert starring vocalist Clairdee, courtesy of the San Francisco Symphony's "Adventures in Music" program. AIM provides free music education to all the city's elementary schools, as well as to some independent and parochial schools. Each year, the students hear four live concerts in a variety of musical genres, and receive a workbook and other freebies, including photos of the performers. Now in its 22nd year, AIM is an innovative program looked to as a model across the nation. Its biggest support comes from the Black and White Ball, a fundraiser held this year on May 22. Headlining the Civic Center event will be Tony Bennett, k.d. lang, and Kool & the Gang. For tickets or more information, visit [www.sfsymphony.org](http://www.sfsymphony.org). Photo by Beverly Tharp

### SCHOOL CONTACTS

**Fairmount Elementary School**  
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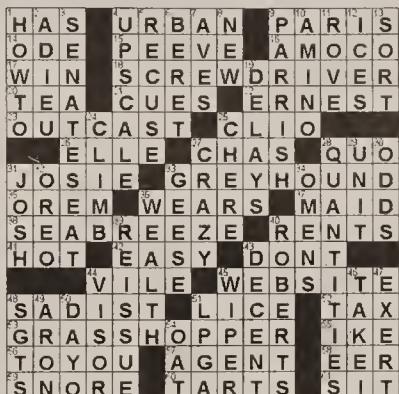
Turn on the TV and you'll see plenty of campaign ads. Open your mailbox and it's bulging with political flyers. Election time is here again. The San Francisco Public Library offers many books and films that explore the social conditions, events, and politics that influence today's important local, state, and national issues. Read commentary and analysis from historians and journalists. Find biographies that provide insight into what makes a successful politician. View a thought-provoking political film or teach your child about the election process. Here's a small selection of titles from the collection at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street.

### Books for Adults

- Kevin Starr's *Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance, 1950-1963* explores the geographical, economic, and social factors that contributed to our state's growth and includes biographical sketches of many key cultural, business, and political figures.
- Peter Schrag studies immigration, globalization, and the impact of politics on people's quality of life, in *California: America's High-Stakes Experiment*.

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## BOOKS AND PICTURES

■ *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, by Larry Gerston and Terry Christensen, is a concise book providing charts, tables, and maps for those who would like a better understanding of how state and local governments work.

■ Pulitzer Prize-winner William Goetzmann tells the story of America's greatest thinkers and creators in *Beyond the Revolution: A History of American Thought from Paine to Pragmatism*.

■ Two reporters give us a behind-the-scenes look at the 2008 presidential election in *Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain, and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime*, by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin.

■ *Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi's Life, Times, and Rise to Power*, by journalist Marc Sandalow, provides the first biography of Pelosi. It's based on hundreds of interviews with colleagues, family, and friends, and Pelosi herself.

■ *Visions of Peace and Justice: Over 30 Years of Political Posters from the Archives of Inkworks Press*, by Lincoln Cushing et al., contains more than 400 color reproductions of posters the Berkeley press printed for causes ranging from Native American and women's liberation to ending the war in Iraq.

### On DVD

■ Tim Robbins stars as a folksinger demagogue campaigning for a U.S. Senate seat in his film *Bob Roberts*.

■ See Sean Penn's Academy Award-winning performance as San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk in Gus Van Sant's film *Milk*.

■ In *Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections*, a documentary by David Earnhardt, computer programmers, statisticians, journalists, and election officials discuss how manipulating vote counts can easily change election outcomes.

### For Older Children

■ Philip Steele's *Eyewitness Vote* looks at the history of elections and voting, politics, and revolutions throughout the world. This book is loaded with facts and figures, timelines, photos, and snapshots of famous people.

■ Geared for kids 4 to 8, *Vote* by Eileen Christelow uses a town's mayoral election to illustrate the election process from the start of the campaign through election day. It includes a list of websites for children who want to learn more about voting.

■ *What's Your Source?—Questioning the News* by Stergios Botzakis helps young readers evaluate media messages.

■ Linus runs for class president in the DVD *You're Not Elected, Charlie Brown*.

### Picture Stories for Younger Children

■ *Max for President* by Jarrett Krosoczka uses the story of a school election to teach children about campaigns, voting, and collaboration.

■ In *Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin, Duck gets tired of his chores and holds an election to replace Farmer Brown.

### BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library  
451 Jersey St., 355-5707

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat  
1-5 10-9 1-9 10-6 1-6 10-6

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### A Toe-Tapping Roots Review

■ On Saturday, May 8, from 11 a.m. to noon, the Noe Valley Library's meeting room will host a "Roots Review," a tour of American music and dance. Children of all ages are invited to come see clog dancing, jazz, and tap—and learn a few steps, too.

#### Comedy Night at the Library

■ You won't hear any "shushing" or belly laughs at the library on Tuesday, May 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m. That's because San Francisco comedians Sammy Wegent and Allison Page will be causing all the commotion in a comedy show featuring sketches, improv, monologues, and their trademark "professional" banter.

#### Greenbacks for Greening

■ Using state and federal stimulus funds, the city has set up a new program called **GreenFinanceSF**, which helps property owners finance "green" improvements to their homes and businesses. On Tuesday, May 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m., GreenFinanceSF staff will be at the library to talk about how the program works and how you might benefit. Typical energy-saving projects include solar hot-water systems, duct sealing and repair, and air-conditioning and heater upgrades.

#### Noe Valley's Book Group

■ The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group gathers on Wednesday, May 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the meeting room of the Noe Valley Library.

#### Preschool Films

■ On Tuesday, April 18, from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m., the library shows films for children to age 5.

#### Family Story Time

■ Kids of all ages will enjoy a reading aloud program, *Family Story Time*, held Tuesdays, May 4 and 11, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street; 355-5707.

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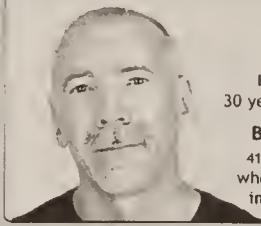
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Photo by Jack Tipple

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**Driver Available:** Doctor appointments, grocery shopping, errands. Bill: 415-826-3613.

**Submissions:** The Noe Valley Voice invites submissions of stories, poems, and essays. Email [lastpage@noealleyvoice.com](mailto:lastpage@noealleyvoice.com) or send manuscript, plus name, phone, and email, to Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you need your materials returned. Thank you.

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**Growsgreen Landscape** offers amazing custom garden designs. [www.growsgreen.com](http://www.growsgreen.com). 415-336-9829.

**Seasonal Allergies?** Tired of antihistamines and tissues? Mention this ad for 50 percent off at Advanced Allergy Solutions, a non-invasive allergy assessment and treatment center. 257 Oak Street, Hayes Valley. 415-556-4700. [www.aasclinics.com](http://www.aasclinics.com).

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## HOW TO PLACE A CLASS AD

**It's easy.** Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month before** the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice Class Ads*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail.)

**10 for 10 discount:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the **June 2010** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of June. **The deadline for Class Ads is May 15.** Note: The issue will be on the streets one month, and will also be displayed on our site, [www.noealleyvoice.com](http://www.noealleyvoice.com).

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of their ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. Thank you for your support.

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 Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230  
 Email: [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
 Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Castro Farmers' Market**  
 Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m., on Noe between Market and Beaver  
 Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; [www.CastroMerchants.com](http://www.CastroMerchants.com)

**Diamond Heights Community Association**  
 Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
 Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**  
 Email: [dhic123@gmail.com](mailto:dhic123@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://www.doloresheights.org)  
 Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**  
 Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
 Meetings: Call for details.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**  
 Contact: Scott Wiener, 437-9414  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
 Meetings: Third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St. (upstairs); 7:30 p.m.  
 Website: [www.evp.org](http://www.evp.org)

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**  
 Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362  
 Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
 Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

**Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association**  
 Contact: Gregg Brooks  
 Email: [sflyric@yahoo.com](mailto:sflyric@yahoo.com)

## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131  
 Meetings: Email for details.

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**  
 Contact: Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122  
<http://friendsofbillygoathill.blogspot.com>

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**  
 Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774  
[emerr@earthlink.net](mailto:emerr@earthlink.net)  
 Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
 Meetings: Email for information.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**  
 Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
 Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**  
 Contact: Laura Norman  
[lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**  
 Contact: Richard May, 298-2344  
[www.friendsofnoealley.com](http://www.friendsofnoealley.com)  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
 Meetings: Occasional (call to confirm); at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

**Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center**  
 Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park**  
 Contact: Alexandra Torre  
[noe\\_park@atorre.com](mailto:noe_park@atorre.com)  
 Website: [www.novalleyreccenter.com](http://www.novalleyreccenter.com)  
 Meetings: Email or check website.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119  
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Screenwriting Group**  
 Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310  
[kendall@microcounsel.com](mailto:kendall@microcounsel.com)  
 Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.  
 Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a screenwriting course.

**Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"**  
 Contact: [noestrolls@aol.com](mailto:noestrolls@aol.com)  
 Weekly Stroll: Thursday at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St. For details, visit [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

**Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District**  
 Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093  
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.  
[info@noealleyassociation.org](mailto:info@noealleyassociation.org).

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**  
 Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838  
 Meetings: Third Wednesday, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m.  
 Parking available in lot off Elizabeth. Call to confirm meeting dates.

**Noe Valley Farmers' Market**  
 Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez.  
 Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
 Mailing Address: 4101 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114  
 Meetings: Second Thursday, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

**Noe Valley Library Campaign**  
 Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, [kkdrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kkdrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103  
 Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687  
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of February, March, April, May, July, October & November, at Bank of America, Second Floor; 9 a.m. September breakfast, call for details.  
 Website: [www.NoeValleyMerchants.com](http://www.NoeValleyMerchants.com)

**Noe Valley Parent Network**  
 An e-mail resource network for parents  
 Contact: Mina Kenvin  
[minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Preparedness Committee**

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536  
[mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com)  
 Meetings: Call for details.

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**  
 Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
 Meetings: Call for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**  
 Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
[contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
 Website: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)  
 Meetings: See website.

**SafeCleanGreen Mission Dolores**  
 Contact: Gideon Kramer, 861-2480  
[safecleangreen@bigfoot.com](mailto:safecleangreen@bigfoot.com)  
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**See Jane Run**  
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 Address: 3910 24th St. (at Sanchez)  
 Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com>

**Upper Noe Neighbors**  
 Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
 Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
 Meetings: Third Thursday of the month. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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# and now for the RUMORS behind the news

## May Daze

By Mazook

IT'S A DONE DEAL: The decades-old cap on new restaurants on 24th Street will soon be lifted. On April 27, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve legislation sponsored by Supervisor Bevan Dufty that would allow more restaurants in Downtown Noe Valley—that is, restaurants of the full-service and self-serve kind.

Dufty explained his stand in a community email sent out after the vote: "Since the 1980s, new restaurants have not been allowed to open on 24th Street in response to community concerns of formula retail and fast food chains opening and taking over San Francisco's neighborhood commercial districts. Since that time, the Planning Department has amended their Planning Code to deal with both chain and fast food stores, and as a result, the need for an outright ban is now unnecessary."

According to Dufty's chief of staff, Boe Hayward, the legislation will get a second reading May 4, where no opposition is expected, and it will then be shipped to the mayor, who is expected to sign the bill, and the ban will go "poof."

What that will mean is anybody's guess.

Dufty also wrote that any new restaurants would have to get a conditional use (CU) permit. "The CU process is the Planning Department's highest bar and requires the applicant to show that they are both necessary and desirable for the neighborhood and allows for a great deal of public input. Fast food restaurants will continue to be prohibited along 24th Street."

The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation predicts that the likelihood of a new restaurant opening in a non-restaurant space in DNV any time in the foreseeable future is next to nil. The costs would be high—the permit process requires big bucks—and the public meetings would be quite interesting. Remember Starbucks?



IT HASTA BE PASTA: Local restaurateur Andriano Paganini, who lives on Liberty Street, has sold his interest in the 29 Pasta Pomodoro restaurants he owned in Northern California. Paganini opened his first PP in 1994 in the Marina District, and his fourth in 1997 in Noe Valley on the corner of Noe and 24th. While there were once seven in San Francisco, only two remain, in Laurel Village and Noe Valley.

As some of you might know, when Paganini expanded Pasta Pomodoro's operations at the beginning of this century, he sold part of the company to Wendy's International Restaurant Group, which apparently was going to go national with PP but which decided otherwise after a merge with Arby's.

The PP chain was purchased in January by two Bay Area entrepreneurs, Matthew Janopaul and Girish Satya, who also currently operate the two Beautiful food stores in Laurel Heights and the Inner Sunset. Janopaul formerly was the president of Fender Musical Instruments, and Satya was with the New York professional services firm Alvarez & Marsal, who bill themselves as "turnaround specialists."

According to president and CEO Janopaul, the plan is to turn around and focus on those things that made Pasta Pomodoro popular in its early days. "We will make very few changes in our menu, continue to use local produce, feature products from Niman Ranch, Belfiore Cheese, and Zoe Meats.

"We want to continue with what has made Pasta Pomodoro so successful in the past: great food, reasonably priced for our customers."

"The only changes we made in our menu," says Janopaul, "were to bring back two very popular dishes from the past, namely the Linguine with Clams and the Eggplant Parmesan, and to add more vegetarian dishes. We learned this when we asked customers for suggestions."

Janopaul says the Noe Valley restaurant is number one in sales "at our urban locations and in the top 10 of all our restaurants."

By the way, he says the most popular dish on the menu is Penne Portobello, which is Portobello mushrooms, grilled chicken, and house-cured Italian sausage in a roasted garlic cream. Hey, we're getting hungry.



PASTA, ANTIPASTO, AND ALICE WATERS: Meanwhile, Paganini has been busy opening new restaurants. First he opened Beretta Restaurant two years ago, on the corner of 23rd Street and Valencia. It has a full bar and Italian fare, including a thin-crust pizza; dinner is served till 1 a.m.

Eight months ago, he opened Starbelly over in the Castro on the corner of 16th and Market. Three months ago, he opened Delarosa in the Marina (2175 Chestnut Street), which serves "Roman"-style pizza. And finally, in April he opened another restaurant in the Castro, at 2304 Market at Noe. Super Duper is a burger spot that is already getting rave reviews, especially for the secret sauce concocted by Paganini.

"I wanted to go back to what I did before," says Paganini, "that is, being in control of the quality of the food and being proud of what we were serving."

In other food news: The weekly events at Noe Valley's famous cookbook store, Omnivore, are being mobbed by our neighborhood's food lovers.

Folks were lined up out the door April 10, when Chez Panisse owner Alice Waters showed up with her new book, *In the Green Kitchen*.

"We had almost a hundred people come to the book-signing," says Omnivore owner Celia Sack, "and Alice was so nice to stay

for over an hour talking to people she met."

Check out Omnivore's May calendar on its website, [www.omnivorebooks.com](http://www.omnivorebooks.com), or in our Calendar this month (pages 30-31). The most interesting (and probably most crowded, since the store can squish only about 40 people inside) evening looks to be an appearance by *New York Times* food writer Kim Severson on May 17, 6 to 7 p.m. She'll talk about her "confessional" memoir, *Spoon Fed: How Eight Cooks Saved My Life*.



STORES GALORE: It looks like many a vacant Downtown Noe Valley store is pending commercial occupancy. It's all about supply and demand. We all know that two new restaurants will be opening on Main Street soon: La Chihuahua in Bistro 24's spot, and Patxi's where Mi Lindo Yucatan used to be on 24th near Castro.

And now we can confirm that a florist will be moving into the space recently vacated by Artsake, on 24th across from Whole Foods. It will be called Joseph Andrade Floral, whose namesake has been doing wholesale floral work and now wants to get into retail.

It's also true that a women's clothing store called Sway, with four stores in the East Bay, will make its first foray into San Francisco in the long-vacant, much-coveted Streetlight Records spot (24th near Noe). The shop is renting the space, and the building is still for sale—and the owner has lowered his price.

The "For Rent" sign has been removed from the former haunts of our 24th Street fortune-teller Nina Stevens—a result that was sorta predictable. We'll need to check our crystal ball to find out who will occupy the rather small space, and psychic Stevens' current whereabouts.

We're sure you noticed that Cooks Boulevard, the kitchen store next to Cover to Cover on Castro, has closed. Owner Malcolm Haar, who worked hard to stay above

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

water in the sinking economy of '08-09, wrote in a note to friends and customers March 8, "Our plan was indeed to stay open. It's become clear, however, that our current situation isn't sustainable." He added that he'd had "an amazing 5+ years in a wonderful community, and [I] appreciate all your support during this time."

The rent at Cooks' former space will reportedly be \$6,200 a month.

And by the time you read this, Lisa Violette's 24th Street store will be closed, ending an almost eight-year run.

"We were open two and a half years on Castro near Jersey," says co-owner Judy Frangquist, "and our five-year lease expired. We both decided it was time to move on. I have married and am now thinking about a family, and Lisa has a booming home-staging business where she has to devote a lot of time. It was a great run."

At press time, we found out that the French Tulip, on 24th and Sanchez, is closing as well. That will be sad news to many—it was just a couple of months ago that someone in our "On 24th Street" survey called the French Tulip "the most romantic place in Noe Valley."

Down on Church Street, rumors have been confirmed that the space where When Modern Was was (WMW moved to 24th Street two months ago) will become a hair salon. The garden store next door, Independent Nature, will stay.

And across the street where Green Twig was (it moved up Church to the corner of 25th), a retail store selling body products, Heliotrope, is scheduled to open in early June.

According to Heliotrope co-owner Jonathan Plotzker, the shop "will feature skin care, aromatherapy, and bath and body

products for men and women, with essential oils that you can use to produce your own fragrance."



**ROO THE DAY:** Starting May 4, in the space at 816 Diamond last occupied by Just Awesome Games, you'll find a new preschool for kids up to five years old, called Kangaroos Play & Learn Activity Center (KPLAC).

"We currently have a space over in the Sunset," says Magda Bach, who with Natella Shtern runs KPLAC, "where we are filled and have a waiting list. We were looking for a second location and found that several of our families come from Noe Valley, so we thought the neighborhood, which has a lot of parents, would be a good place to open, so here we are."

Bach says classes have 15 to 18 children and are offered weekday mornings 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., and afternoons noon to 3 p.m. KPLAC also has an all-day Saturday class, which includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus a snack, for \$60. "There is a big demand in San Francisco now from parents who want to start their kids in a part-time program early, and involve them with the socialization process," Bach says.



**IN ROUND FIGURES:** On Cinco de Mayo (May 5), Circle Bank will throw a big party at 3938 24th Street, next to Whole Foods, in celebration of the branch's May 1 opening. From 5 to 7 p.m., "we will have food, a raffle, and games for the kids, and a margarita machine for the adults," says Noe Valley Branch Manager Carlos Rivera.

He also invites everyone to the bank's official grand opening, set for May 26, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. "Whole Foods is catering the event, and we will be serving wine," Rivera says.

Circle is based in Novato, with other branches in San Rafael, Petaluma, and Santa Rosa. Its Noe Valley branch, open seven days a week, will feature an area for chil-

dren with widescreen TV, a stroller parking space, and accommodations for pets.

Rivera comes to Circle from Citibank, where he also worked as a manager (at the Eureka Valley branch). "I am very excited to be working in Noe Valley," says Rivera. "When I was in high school at McAteer, I used to live on the second floor of the apartment building right up [24th] street, next to Bernie's coffeehouse."

Rivera has served as a board member for the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and for the Mission Area Youth Credit Union. He's also an active member of Reading Partners, a nonprofit literacy program.



**KEEPING IT REALTORS:** Late May is when Alain Pinel Realtors is expecting to open its Noe Valley office, says Pinel's regional manager, Tim Murray. The branch will fill the corner slot at 24th and Vicksburg, where Phoenix Books used to reside.

Pinel Realtors, reputed to be the sixth largest residential real estate company in the U.S., is headquartered in Saratoga, Calif., and has 32 offices in the greater Bay Area. Noe Valley will be the firm's third in the city, after the Marina and Cow Hollow.

According to Murray, who will oversee the office, Pinel in Noe Valley will have a staff of 15 agents, but will serve as the home base for more. "We found that most of our top-selling agents also have home offices and are living in Noe Valley, Eureka Valley, Cole Valley, Bernal Heights, and Liberty Heights, so this location is very centrally located for them and their clients," Murray says.

For the record, Pinel is leasing the space and not buying the building, which is owned by top-selling real estate broker and longtime Noe Valleyan Sue Bowie.



**PROPS TO THE SUPES:** Yes, the California primary election will be held Tuesday, June 8, ushering in a very political summer lead-

ing up to the November general election.

The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation warns that only 30 percent of the 16,000 registered voters in Noe Valley are likely to vote, which in majority-rule elections means 15 percent could hold all the cards. That's more dangerous to our democracy than any terrorist group could be. Vote!

By the way, the Department of Elections wants you to know that in a primary election those who have registered with a qualified political party (Republican, Democrat, the American Independent Party, the Green Party, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom) may vote only for candidates from that party in "partisan contests" such as Senator or Governor. Independents can vote for either Repubs or Demos (should they wish). You can register or re-register until May 24.

The race for Bevan Dufty's seat on the Board of Supervisors should also be simmering this summer in a very tight heat between frontrunners Scott Wiener, Rebecca Prozan, and Rafael Mandelman.

State Senator Mark Leno has endorsed Wiener, adding to endorsements from Mayor Newsom and supervisors Elsbernd and Chu.

Four supervisors (Avalos, Campos, Daly, and Mar) have endorsed Mandelman.

Prozan is supported by State Senator Leland Yee, Supervisor Alioto-Pier, and District Attorney Kamala Harris.

In early April, Bevan Dufty, who had been flirting with all three candidates, endorsed Prozan to succeed him on the board. This is the first time a supervisor not eligible for reelection has endorsed a replacement, I'm told.

Says Dufty: "I have worked 15 years with Rebecca and found that she works hard, holds herself to the highest standards of integrity, and shows us that politics should be foremost about helping people."

That's all, you all. Have a great spring, and remember not to hold your breath—summer doesn't come to Noe Valley until at least Sept. 21. Ciao for now.

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Valleys to Climb. The hills of Noe are populated with rows of houses and homes creating vistas for our hiking photographer.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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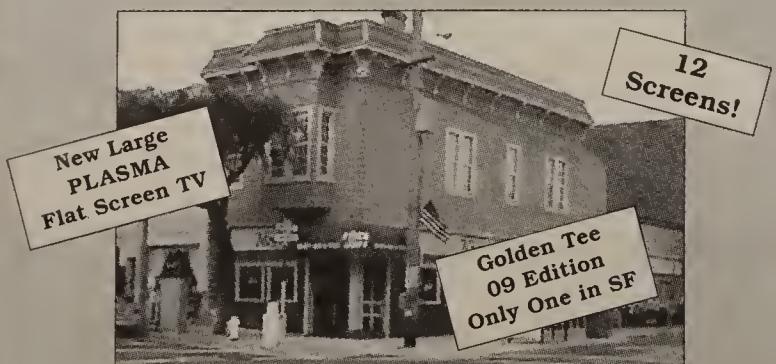
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